

**To:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Grantham, Nancy  
**Sent:** Mon 12/18/2017 7:10:02 PM  
**Subject:** RE: follow up questions on Definers Public Affairs contract

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**Nancy Grantham**

**Office of Public Affairs**

**US Environmental Protection Agency**

**202-564-6879 (desk)**

**202-253-7056 (mobile)**

**From:** Bowman, Liz  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2017 2:00 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: follow up questions on Definers Public Affairs contract

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**From:** Friedman, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2017 12:38 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** follow up questions on Definers Public Affairs contract

Hi folks. I have a few follow up questions on the nature of the contract with Definers I hope you can answer.

1. The contract itself notes that it was a sole-source notification, a no-bid contract. Can you

explain to me why this qualified as a no-bid contract. Are they the only company that can provide this service? Unique in some way? Is there any written justification that was conducted that you can provide me?

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**3. The contract notes that Definers is self-designated as a disadvantaged business. Executives at Definers said they believe that is a clerical error and that they did not purposely claim any disadvantaged status. Can you please explain to me why the company is designated as such, how that came to be, and if any benefits were incurred to the company because of that status.**

Thanks so much,

Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy  
Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy  
From: Wilcox, Jahan  
Sent: Fri 5/12/2017 3:03:38 PM  
Subject: FW: EPA's Weekly Round-Up

Wanted to make sure you guys saw this.

From: U.S. EPA Media Relations [mailto:no-replysubscriptions@epa.gov]  
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 11:00 AM  
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>  
Subject: EPA's Weekly Round-Up

## EPA's Weekly Round-Up

May 12, 2017

From meeting with Florida Governor Rick Scott, signing a proposed rule that will let North Dakota regulate CO2 storage and reaffirming his commitment to cleaning-up Superfund sites, it was a successful week at EPA. Below is a recap of all of the good news from an EPA that is protecting the environment and American jobs.

### *National Stories ...*

**The New York Times reports one of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's top priorities is to clean up toxic Superfund sites.** *"Scott Pruitt has directed his regional chiefs to elevate Superfund cleanup efforts to what he describes as their rightful place as the agency's core mission. 'I am making it a priority to ensure contaminated sites get cleaned up. We will be more hands-on to ensure proper oversight and attention to the Superfund program at the highest levels of the agency, and to create consistency across states,' Pruitt said."*

**The Washington Examiner reports that Pruitt is working with local leaders to clean-up the East Chicago Superfund site.** "Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt on Friday joined Democrats and Republicans to reaffirm the agency's commitment to communities outside of Chicago hit by high levels of lead contamination. Pruitt had visited the Indiana city of East Chicago last month affected by contamination from a closed lead production facility owned by the firm U.S. Steel that had been designated a Superfund cleanup site by the agency in 2009."

**The Washington Times reports Pruitt said that Barack Obama was no ‘environmental savior.’** *“Mr. Pruitt said the past administration talked a good game on the environment, but has little in the way of concrete accomplishments. He pointed to the environmental disaster in Flint, Michigan, and the Gold King Mine spill, both of which led to widespread water contamination. He also said the administration’s attempts to rein in carbon emissions were blocked by federal courts, as were other high-profile regulations. At the same time, Mr. Pruitt charged, much of the country remained in non-compliance with federal ozone standards, and the number of Superfund sites — areas contaminated by hazardous waste and identified for federal clean-up efforts — increased during Mr. Obama’s tenure.”*

**The Hill reports that Pruitt was highly critical of the previous administration.** *“Pruitt was also highly critical of his predecessor, naming similar environmental problems over the last eight years. ‘What’s so great about that record,’ he asked North Dakota conservative radio host Rob Port, after listing similar statistics about air quality, Superfund and the Flint and Gold King disasters. ‘I don’t quite understand the environmental left when they say that somehow, what the past administration, what was done, was so great.’”*

**The Daily Caller reports that Pruitt said he sued the previous administration because they exceeded their statutory authority.** *“Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt said he sued the agency he heads so many times while Oklahoma attorney general because ‘they exceeded their statutory authority.’ ‘They deserved it and they deserved it because they exceeded their statutory authority, they exceeded their constitutional authority.’”*

**Additionally, the Daily Caller notes that after the Flint water crisis, the previous administration does not deserve the plaudits it has received.** *“Pruitt said the former administration does not deserve the plaudits it has received, especially after the EPA’s failure to fix Flint’s water system.”*

**On Hugh Hewitt, Pruitt set the record straight about false information being circulated about the EPA’s Board of Scientific Counselors.** *“The board of scientific counselors that we have at the EPA, they serve three year terms. And so those are reviewed every three years. Those same individuals can apply through the competitive process. ... There was no firing that took place. These individuals can apply, will apply, I’m sure, in some instances, and very well could be put back on the board. But it’s the right thing to do to ensure transparency, its activity, peer-reviewed science and geographical representation on the board.”*

**Need to Know Network reports that Pruitt said that Obama’s administration used the authority of Washington to walk over the states.** *“Pruitt said during the interview that the Obama administration used the authority of Washington to walk over the states, and looked at states as mere vessels of federal will. ... Pruitt went on to say that the EPA has restored a focus on “cooperative federalism” and working with the states.”*

*To The States ...*

**The Tampa Bay Times reports that Pruitt met with Florida Governor Rick Scott to talk about water issues.** *“[Governor Rick] Scott popped in for a visit with EPA Administrator Scott*

*Pruitt to talk water issues.”*

**The Bismarck Tribune reports that the EPA signed a proposed rule that will let North Dakota regulate CO2 storage wells.** *“Tuesday marked a new day for North Dakota’s ability to regulate storage of carbon dioxide gas, an important part of a cleaner coal future. The federal Environmental Protection Agency took a first step toward giving the state primary authority to regulate federal Class VI wells for injecting CO2 into deep underground pore space for either long-term storage or for store-and-sell in enhanced oil recovery.”*

**The Fargo Forum reports Pruitt promised a friendlier, more cooperative relationship with states.** *“‘If you go back to the inception of the agency...Congress has been very insistent in saying the states have a role,’ EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt told me during an interview on my radio show today. ‘The past administration simply disregarded that,’ he continued.”*

**The Grand Forks Herald reports that all of sudden North Dakota and the EPA are getting along.** *“Under the Trump administration, there has been a big shift in our state’s relationship with that federal agency. ‘The days of coercive federalism are over,’ new EPA head Scott Pruitt said earlier this year in a letter to Governor Doug Burgum.”*

**The Minot Daily News reports that North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum said EPA Administrator Pruitt will have the biggest single impact on his state.** *“Gov. Doug Burgum said he thinks the biggest change for North Dakota as a result of the Trump administration is the president’s new team, in particular, two of its members. Burgum said he feels Scott Pruitt, the new administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, will have the biggest single impact on North Dakota.”*

**Ozark News reports that Pruitt slammed the brakes on a pesticide rule from the Obama Administration.** *“Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt has announced a 12-month delay for the implementation of the Certification and Training of Pesticide Applicators rule. Pruitt says the new extension will enable EPA to work with states and provide adequate compliance and training resources, after the group received feedback from states and stakeholders that more time and resources were needed to prepare for compliance with the rule.”*

**Oklahoma City’s KOCO-TV reports that the EPA awarded Oklahoma with an \$855,000 grant to protect water quality.** *“The Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$855,000 to the Oklahoma Office of the Secretary of Energy to support management of nonpoint-source water pollution, officials said in a news release. ... ‘Improving the Nation’s water is one of EPA’s highest priorities under the Trump administration,’ said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who was Oklahoma’s attorney general before taking a position in President Donald Trump’s administration.”*

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If you would rather not receive future communications from Environmental Protection Agency, let us know by clicking [here](#).  
Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460 United States

**To:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Grantham, Nancy  
**Sent:** Mon 12/18/2017 8:54:50 PM  
**Subject:** RE: follow up questions on Definers Public Affairs contract

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Thanks ng

**Nancy Grantham**

**Office of Public Affairs**

**US Environmental Protection Agency**

**202-564-6879 (desk)**

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**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2017 2:00 PM  
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Thanks so much,

Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell



**To:** Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]  
**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Mon 9/11/2017 2:30:39 PM  
**Subject:** DRAFT ...

Without attribution ...

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/ap-exclusive-flooding-threatens-toxic-sites-irma-nears-49718959>

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**The Associated Press reports that Stephen Sweeney conducted a Superfund flooding study, when his LinkedIn page shows that he was merely support staff.** “The EPA needs to do a better job helping people who live near Superfund sites stay informed with accurate information, said Stephen Sweeney, a former employee in EPA's office of policy and one of the American University researchers who conducted the Superfund flooding study. ‘These residents need to be aware of their surroundings, and what could be in their water and the floodwater,’ Sweeney said. ‘There needs to be some sort of public communication. Either mass distribution of information or evacuating residents — it's up to the agency to make that call.’” (The Associated Press, [AP Exclusive: Flooding threatens toxic sites as Irma nears](#), 09/09/17)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sweeneystephen1>

**Additionally, according to Federal Data Center on all government employees, Stephen J. Sweeney was a paid intern – with the official title of Administration and Office Support Student Trainee.** “Sweeney, Stephen J: GS 04: Annual Salary \$31,521: Official Title: Washington Administration and Office Support Student Trainee.” ([www.fedsdatacenter.com](http://www.fedsdatacenter.com), Accessed 09/09/17)

**The Associated Press also cited former EPA employee Betsy Southerland who was caught lying about why she left the agency.** “A risk analysis by EPA concluded in 2012 that flooding at such sites in South Florida could pose a risk to public health by spreading contaminated soil and groundwater. Flooding could disturb dangerous pollutants and wash it onto nearby property or contaminate groundwater, including personal wells, said Elizabeth “Betsy” Southerland, who retired last month as director of science and technology in EPA's Office of Water after 30 years at the agency. ‘The agency needs to quickly respond with careful monitoring after the storm,’

said Southerland, who has criticized EPA's current leadership under President Donald Trump.”  
(The Associated Press, AP Exclusive: Flooding threatens toxic sites as Irma nears, 09/09/17)

**Response documents to a FOIA request for Elizabeth Southerland, who made more than \$200,000 per year, reveal she did not retire because of Trump.** “A senior employee at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made a big stink about leaving the agency earlier this month over President Trump’s proposed 2018 budget and the direction of the new administration, but new documents show she might not have been telling the whole story. Elizabeth Southerland penned a memo to her EPA colleagues in which she lamented potential budget cuts to the agency outlined in Trump’s FY18 budget, released in May. Presidential budgets are rarely, if ever, approved let alone enacted. Still, Southerland wrote in her retirement memo: [T]he President’s FY18 budget proposes cuts to state and tribal funding as draconian as the cuts to EPA, while at the same time reassigning a number of EPA responsibilities to the states and tribes. Later in the memo, she continued her war on the Trump administration, declaring: “It may take a few years and even an environmental disaster, but I am confident that Congress and the courts will eventually restore all the environmental protections repealed by this administration because the majority of the American people recognize that this protection of public health and safety is right and it is just.” That memo went public August 1, but documents obtained by NTK Network through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request reveal Southerland, who made headlines for her parting shots at the Trump administration, may have left out key details about her departure. In an email to a colleague dated July 26, 2017, Southerland explained her retirement decision was announced internally in June, and gives the reason why: Maybe you did not receive my email about my retirement, but I sent it to you in June as soon as I found out I needed to retire to help out with family medical care.” (Need To Know Network, 08/28/17)

To: Dorr, Kaelan K. EOP/WHO [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy] Love, Kelly A.  
EOP/WHO [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy] Rateike, Bradley A.  
EOP/WHO [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]

## Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Henning, Alexa A.

EOP/WHO [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]

## Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

**Cc:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Block, Molly[block.molly@epa.gov]

**From:** Konkus, John

**Sent:** Mon 12/18/2017 10:55:14 PM

**Subject:** WH Report

Daily Communications Report 12 18 17.docx

WH Team: Attached is our report.

Thank you,

John Konkus

Environmental Protection Agency

Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs

Mobile: (202) 365-9250

**To:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]  
**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Thur 5/25/2017 3:28:53 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Updated Proposal...  
[5.22.17 Definers EPA Monitoring Proposal.pdf](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Also was going to submit this too but Definers Public Affairs can/should run our war-room clips (see attachment and proposal).

Alerting clips, transcripts in live time is a full-time job and because of the 24-7 news cycle it's not a one person job either.

I believe their sister company AR did this for SP during his confirmation.

I was waiting for JP to be done before bringing this proposal to the group.

I've always been working with Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy who is being as difficult as possible - in revamping our our paper product goes out and to who it goes to. This project should've been finished two weeks ago as Nancy has been helpful.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Joe Pounder <[jpounder@definerscorp.com](mailto:jpounder@definerscorp.com)>  
**Date:** May 22, 2017 at 4:26:28 PM CDT  
**To:** [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)  
**Subject:** Updated Proposal...

Mr. Wilcox,  
Please find attached an updated proposal with examples of actual alerts and daily matrix. Please let us know if you have any other questions. Our plan is when it is rolled out to clients, these alerts will be compiled into our Definers Console where they will be also stored and searchable in addition to emailed directly to inboxes. Thanks again.

--

Joe Pounder  
[jpounder@definerscorp.com](mailto:jpounder@definerscorp.com)  
571-290-5460

**To:** Bodine, Susan[bodine.susan@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Thur 12/14/2017 8:47:50 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Request for comment on Definers contract, deadline end of day

This is a leak that came from Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Definers was hired to do media monitoring in real-time (24-7) with the ability to cut clips to help our shop.

Nancy ran point on this, but Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy was the only person that knew I know that Definers offered this war room monitoring system.

**From:** Rebecca Leber [mailto:releber@motherjones.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 14, 2017 3:36 PM  
**To:** Press <Press@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Request for comment on Definers contract, deadline end of day

Writing to request comment on federal records showing that the EPA has hired Definers Corp., a PR firm associated with GOP campaigns, on a \$120,000 federal contract to conduct media monitoring.

What work was Definers hired for?

Can you comment on Jahan Wilcox's connections to the staff at Definers, and if he or any other staff played a role in facilitating the contract?

My deadline is end of the day, thank you

Rebecca Leber

**To:** Ford, Hayley[ford.hayley@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]  
**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Tue 9/19/2017 7:39:59 PM  
**Subject:** Fall Media

Below is our Fall Media To-Do-List.

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

### Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process** This list has been approved by Liz.

#### THE FALL MEDIA TO-DO LIST

**October 11, 2017:** Wall Street Journal / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA

**October 17, 18, 19 or 20, 2017:** Time Magazine with Justin Worland / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA

**October 18, 2017:** Hugh Hewitt MSNBC / 30 Minutes / EPA (Believe this is already scheduled)

**October 24, 2017:** Bloomberg / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA

**October 25, 2017:** Breitbart / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA

**October 31, 2017:** Washington Examiner with Paul Bedard / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record)) / EPA

**November 1, 2017:** Washington Post's Daily 202 Breakfast / 60 Minutes (40 On-The-Record) / The Washington Post; 1301 K Street NW

**November 8, 2017:** Reuters / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA

**TBD (prefer October):** Oklahoman in Oklahoma City

**TBD (prefer October):** Tulsa World in Tulsa

**TBD (mid-October or November):** Print Interview with NTK Network / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / Rosslyn, Virginia

**TBD (October, November or December):** Radio Interview with Resurgent's Gabriella Hoffman

**TBD (October, November or December):** Print Interview with the Washington Free Beacon

**TBD (November or December):** CBS News' The Takeout With Major Garrett

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### **Time Magazine's Profile With Justin Worland**

**WHAT:** Profile story in Time Magazine

**WHY:** Time Magazine is doing a profile on Scott Pruitt with or without our participation. We have decided to do this interview, but have also requested that it be a podcast as well, so that all of the audio is available from the interview.

### **The Washington Post's Daily 202 Breakfast With James Hohmann & Juliet Eilperin**

**WHAT:** "The format would be a 40-minute, onstage interview with James at The Washington Post's HQ in D.C. The interview will be entirely conversational, no need for any prepared statements or opening remarks. We would anticipate a live audience of approximately 200 attendees, including senior staff from Congress and the administration, policy experts, business executives and academics. In addition to the in-room audience, we'll also live stream and post video of the conversation across The Washington Post and its digital platforms, including Facebook Live, which regularly draw well-over 100k live viewers."

**WHY:** The Daily 202 is the most-read newsletter in the country. This platform will provide over 100,000 live viewers. Pruitt has a really good relationship with Juliet Eilperin and James Hohmann is a very fair reporter.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:** This interview will be at the Washington Post before 200 invited guests. There will be security, along with plain clothes security and invited guests must show identification to enter the event.

**PREVIOUS GUESTS:** Secretary Wilbur Ross, Kevin McCarthy and Scott Walker.

### **CBS News' The Takeout With Major Garrett**

**WHAT:** "The Takeout" is a weekly podcast about politics, policy and pop culture hosted by CBS News Chief White House Correspondent Major Garrett and CBS News Political Director Steve Chaggaris. Listeners can expect context and analysis of the week's political news in a casual format that allows for expanded conversation with a newsmaker. Each episode is recorded over a meal at a Washington, D.C. restaurant.

**WHY:** Administrator Pruitt has a previous relationship with Major Garrett.

**PREVIOUS GUESTS:** White House Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel, Corey Lewandowski, former Governor Martin O'Malley.

### **The Washington Examiner's Paul Bedard**

**WHAT:** Paul Bedard is a longtime D.C. reporter joined the Washington Examiner in 2012 after



penning U.S. News & World Report's premiere political column, "Washington Whispers," for more than a decade.

**WHY:** Bedard is a conservative who holds the media accountable and can also write about the EPA's Back-To-Basics Agenda.

**PREVIOUS GUESTS:** Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

#### **The Wall Street Journal with Tim Puko and Eli Stokols**

**WHAT:** On-the-record interview with the Wall Street Journal's Tim Puko and Eli Stokols about the EPA's Back-To-Basics Agenda.

#### **Bloomberg Interview with Jennifer Dlouhy, Jennifer Jacobs and Ari Natter**

**WHAT:** Similar to our interview with Reuters, this would be a wide-ranging interview with Bloomberg which is not only read by industry officials but also serves as a wire service.

#### **Reuters Interview with Valeria Volcovici**

**WHAT:** Similar to our interview with Reuters from June, this would be a wide-ranging interview with Reuters.

#### **Hugh Hewitt on MSNBC**

**WHAT:** Hugh Hewitt hosts a television show on MSNBC and this would be a taped interview for his program.

**WHY:** It's an opportunity to appear on MSNBC while also talking with a conservative ally.

**PREVIOUS GUESTS:** National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster, HUD Secretary Ben Carson and Senator Tom Cotton

#### **NTK Interview with Jeff Bechdel**

**WHAT:** Need to Know (NTK) Network is a news outlet founded by former Mitt Romney campaign manager Matt Rhoades and former RNC Research Director Joe Pounder. This interview will consist of 5 questions, which we will receive ahead of time.

**WHY:** Pruitt has also mentioned that he'd like to meet Matt Drudge and Rhoades is one of the closest people to him.

●□□□□□□□□ “[Matt Rhoades] is an expert at manipulating the news cycle with a coveted connection to the elusive media power broker Matt Drudge.”

●□□□□□□□□ “In 2008 (and 2012) that was how Mitt Romney was stronger than many people gave him credit for. (That coverage was attributed in no small part to Drudge's close working relationship with Romney campaign manager Matt Rhoades.)”

**PREVIOUS GUESTS:** Former Speaker Newt Gingrich

**Radio Interview with the Resurgent's Gabriella Hoffman**

**WHAT:** The Resurgent is a conservative website founded by Erik Erickson.

**WHY:** Good conservative outlet founded by conservative Erik Erickson.

**PREVIOUS GUESTS:** Senator Mike Lee, Congressman Dave Brat

**Print Interview with Breitbart's Matt Boyle**

**WHAT:** An interview with Breitbart's editor Matt Boyle

**WHY:** Good conservative outlet that is read throughout Washington, especially by mainstream reporters. Additionally, Breitbart has written a number of favorable stories for the EPA.

**PREVIOUS GUESTS:** President Donald Trump in the Oval Office.

**Print Interview with the Washington Free Beacon's Liz Harrington**

**WHAT:** An interview with the Washington Free Beacon, who writes favorable coverage regarding the work EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is doing at the EPA.

**WHY:** Good conservative outlet that also is syndicated on Fox News' website.

**Print Interview with the Tulsa World's Randy Krehbiel**

**WHAT:** An interview with the Tulsa World, regarding the work EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is doing at the EPA.

**Print Interview with the Oklahoman's Paul Rand Monies**

**WHAT:** An interview with the Oklahoman, regarding the work EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is doing at the EPA.

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Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: 202.309.0934

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

**To:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]  
**From:** Amy Graham  
**Sent:** Mon 9/25/2017 2:01:29 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy résumé  
7.11.17 Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy pdf

Here is a resume for a very solid candidate. She has previous traveling press experience with Governor Scott.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy  
**Date:** Sun, Sep 24, 2017 at 7:21 PM  
**Subject:** Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy résumé  
**To:** Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Hi Amy-

Great talking to you! Thanks for thinking of me. Please see attached résumé.

Thank you!

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

--

Amy Graham  
772-408-7214

**To:** Ford, Hayley[ford.hayley@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]; Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Thur 9/21/2017 3:09:12 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Fall Media

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**From:** Ford, Hayley  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:04 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Fall Media

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Thanks!

**Hayley Ford**

Deputy White House Liaison

Office of the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

Room: 3309C William Jefferson Clinton North

[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)

Phone: 202-564-2022

Cell: 202-306-1296

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2017 3:40 PM

**To:** Ford, Hayley <[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>; Ferguson, Lincoln <[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov](mailto:ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)>; Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>

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#### THE FALL MEDIA TO-DO LIST

**October 11, 2017:** Wall Street Journal / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA

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**WHY:** Time Magazine is doing a profile on Scott Pruitt with or without our participation. We have decided to do this interview, but have also requested that it be a podcast as well, so that all of the audio is available from the interview.

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**WHAT:** "The format would be a 40-minute, onstage interview with James at The Washington Post's HQ in D.C. The interview will be entirely conversational, no need for any prepared statements or opening remarks. We would anticipate a live audience of approximately 200 attendees, including senior staff from Congress and the administration, policy experts, business executives and academics. In addition to the in-room audience, we'll also live stream and post video of the conversation across The Washington Post and its digital platforms, including Facebook Live, which regularly draw well-over 100k live viewers."

**WHY:** The Daily 202 is the most-read newsletter in the country. This platform will provide over 100,000 live viewers. Pruitt has a really good relationship with Juliet Eilperin and James Hohmann is a very fair reporter.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:** This interview will be at the Washington Post before 200 invited guests. There will be security, along with plain clothes security and invited guests must show identification to enter the event.

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**WHAT:** Paul Bedard is a longtime D.C. reporter joined the Washington Examiner in 2012 after penning U.S. News & World Report's premiere political column, "Washington Whispers," for more than a decade.

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**WHAT:** Need to Know (NTK) Network is a news outlet founded by former Mitt Romney campaign manager Matt Rhoades and former RNC Research Director Joe Pounder. This interview will consist of 5 questions, which we will receive ahead of time.

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- “In 2008 (and 2012) that was how Mitt Romney was stronger than many people gave him credit for. (That coverage was attributed in no small part to Drudge's close working relationship with Romney campaign manager Matt Rhoades.)”

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Jahan Wilcox  
EPA  
Strategic Communications Advisor  
Work Cell: 202.309.0934  
Work Email: [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)

**To:** Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Ford, Hayley  
**Sent:** Tue 9/26/2017 9:42:46 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Fall Media

No because they said TBD

## **Hayley Ford**

Deputy White House Liaison

Office of the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

Room: 3309C William Jefferson Clinton North

[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)

Phone: 202-564-2022

Cell: 202-306-1296

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 26, 2017 3:55 PM  
**To:** Ford, Hayley <[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fall Media

Did any of these get scheduled? Just checking. Thank you Hayley!

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**From:** Ford, Hayley  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:15 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fall Media

Hugh is not scheduled for 10/18. Let me know if I should put on the calendar.

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Office of the Administrator

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[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)

Phone: 202-564-2022

Cell: 202-306-1296

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:09 AM  
**To:** Ford, Hayley <[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>; Ferguson, Lincoln <[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov](mailto:ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)>; Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>; Hupp, Millan <[hupp.millan@epa.gov](mailto:hupp.millan@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fall Media

# **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

**From:** Ford, Hayley  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:04 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>; Ferguson, Lincoln <[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov](mailto:ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)>; Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>; Hupp, Millan <[hupp.millan@epa.gov](mailto:hupp.millan@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fall Media

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Office of the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

Room: 3309C William Jefferson Clinton North

[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)

Phone: 202-564-2022

Cell: 202-306-1296

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2017 3:40 PM  
**To:** Ford, Hayley <[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>; Ferguson, Lincoln <[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov](mailto:ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)>; Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>

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Below is our Fall Media To-Do-List.

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**To:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Block, Molly[block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]  
**From:** Hewitt, James  
**Sent:** Tue 12/19/2017 2:03:50 PM  
**Subject:** RE: FOR APPROVAL//EPA News Highlights 12.19.17

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**From:** Hewitt, James  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017 9:00 AM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FOR APPROVAL//EPA News Highlights 12.19.17

### **EPA News Highlights 12.19.17**

#### **The Weekly Standard: There's No Scandal at the EPA**

“Another entry from the authoritarian handbook,” says David Axelrod. MSNBC’s Chris Hayes thinks it’s a “hunt” for “ideological subversives.” The public is financing “lies” to “eviscerate environmental protections,” according to Robert Reich. Liberals accuse their adversaries of fascism pretty regularly these days, so you likely have no idea what is worrying these lefty grandees. To be specific: Over the weekend the New York Times published a story about the Environmental Protection Agency hiring a public relations firm to investigate “agency employees who have been critical of the Trump administration.” A vice president of the firm, Definers Public Affairs, explains it to the Times straightforwardly: they were asked to look into whether EPA employees “were emailing critical things about the agency on government time and how frequently they were corresponding about this.”

#### **Chicago Tribune: EPA orders companies blamed for East Chicago contamination to pay for cleanup**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ordered companies blamed for contamination in East Chicago to take over the cleanup of part of the Calumet neighborhood. The EPA on Monday

announced it filed two unilateral administrative orders against six companies held responsible for the contamination in East Chicago's Calumet neighborhood, which is a part of the U.S.S. Lead Superfund site. The orders would compel the companies – U.S.S. Lead, Atlantic Richfield Co., DuPont, Chemours, United States Metals Refining Co. and Mueller Industries – to remediate contaminated soil in Zone 2, which runs from McCook to Huish Drive, and do indoor dust cleaning in that area and Zone 3, which runs east of Huish. The EPA said its staff will oversee the contractors the companies hire to do the work.

### **The Washington Free Beacon: EPA Bureaucrats Complain Pruitt Doesn't Want Them to Conspire Against Trump**

EPA bureaucrats are running to the New York Times to complain that Administrator Scott Pruitt doesn't want them conspiring against him or President Donald Trump. "E.P.A. Employees Spoke Out. Then Came Scrutiny of Their Email," the Times writes breathlessly, implying that Pruitt himself is scouring over their emails. (He's not.) Readers have to get to the 17th paragraph to realize that the "scrutiny of their email" was from a Republican lawyer outside the agency who filed Freedom of Information Act requests after the bureaucrats had very publicly blasted Trump and Pruitt. But for the Times, it's a "witch hunt" against career bureaucrats, and three star-crossed employees bold enough to speak out against Trump

### **Bloomberg: Pruitt's EPA Turns to 'Lean Manufacturing' to Speed Up Reviews**

President Donald Trump's bid to speed up regulatory approvals is relying on a "lean manufacturing" approach inspired by Toyota Motor Corp. The Environmental Protection Agency's chief of operations has a long history of implementing Toyota's concept, which focuses on labor-management dialogue to curb defects and cut delays. The agency is in discussions about entering into a contract with Toyota's management spinoff to help it accomplish its goals. "It's not about policy. It's not about specific decisions," Henry Darwin, the EPA operations chief, said in an interview. It's "about the process that we use in order to basically eliminate waste and maximize customer value."

### **Reuters: EPA seeks comment on carbon rule replacement**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Monday issued a notice that it wants public input for a possible replacement of Obama-era regulations on carbon dioxide emissions from power plants that the agency is repealing. The agency's advance notice kicks off a 60-day comment period on "specific topics for the Agency to consider in developing any subsequent proposed rule," according to an EPA release. The move comes after the agency proposed in October to repeal the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, a collection of emissions standards for U.S. states intended to reduce pollution from power plants - the largest emitters of greenhouse

gases - by 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. “The EPA sets out and requests comment on the roles, responsibilities, and limitations of the federal government, state governments, and regulated entities in developing and implementing such a rule, and the EPA solicits information regarding the appropriate scope of such a rule and associated technologies and approaches,” the notice says.

#### **The Hill: EPA chief Pruitt had office swept for surveillance bugs**

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had his office professionally examined earlier this year to look for covert surveillance devices. The EPA paid \$3,000 in March to Edwin Steinmetz Associates to do a “sweep for covert/illegal surveillance devices” in Administrator Scott Pruitt’s office at the agency’s Washington, D.C., headquarters, documents provided to The Hill show. The EPA source that provided the documents on the condition of anonymity said the sweep, which came weeks after Pruitt’s arrival at the agency, did not uncover any bugs. Pruitt has taken a number of steps to guard his security and privacy in his time as EPA head. He is the first EPA administrator to have a 24-hour security detail, encompassing a staff of dozens of agents at a six-figure annual cost, often pulling agents away from environmental enforcement matters. He paid nearly \$25,000 for a secure phone booth in his office, despite an existing secure compartmentalized information facility (SCIF) elsewhere in the building.

#### **National News Highlights 12.19.17**

##### **Reuters: US Congress poised to approve biggest tax overhaul in 30 years**

The Republican-controlled U.S. Congress will begin voting on Tuesday on the biggest overhaul of the U.S. tax system in more than 30 years, with little standing in the way of the party's first major legislative triumph under President Donald Trump. The House of Representatives, which introduced initial tax legislation barely six weeks ago on Nov. 2, was poised to act first with a Tuesday afternoon vote. The Senate could follow on Tuesday night or Wednesday morning, after completing 10 hours of debate, lawmakers said. With strict party-line votes expected in both chambers, passage appeared all but certain. Republicans insist that the sweeping package of tax cuts for corporations, small businesses and individuals will boost economic and job growth. They also see the measure as key to having any hope of retaining their majorities in the House and Senate when voters go to the polls next November.

##### **The Washington Post: Trump team’s meeting with Mueller’s office poised to ratchet up tensions**

White House lawyers are expected to meet with special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's office late this week seeking good news: that his sprawling investigation's focus on President Trump will soon end and their client will be cleared. But people familiar with the probe say that such assurances are unlikely and that the meeting could trigger a new, more contentious phase between the special counsel and a frustrated president, according to administration officials and advisers close to Trump. People with knowledge of the investigation said it could last at least another year — pointing to ongoing cooperation from witnesses such as former Trump campaign adviser George Papadopoulos and former national security adviser Michael Flynn, as well as a possible trial of two former Trump campaign officials.

### **The Wall Street Journal: Middle Class to Get 23% of Tax Cuts for Individuals Under GOP Bill**

Middle-income households will get \$61 billion in tax cuts in 2019 under the Republican tax plan poised for passage this week, according to an analysis released late Monday by Congress's Joint Committee on Taxation. That amounts to 23% of the tax cuts that go directly to individuals. By 2027, however, these households would get a net tax increase, because tax cuts are set to expire under the proposed law. The calculations are based on JCT estimates of cuts going to households that earn \$20,000 to \$100,000 a year in wages, dividends and benefits. Those households account for about half of all U.S. tax filers, with nearly a quarter making more and a quarter making less. The Trump administration has emphasized the benefits of the tax plan for middle-income households.

### **TRUMP TWEETS**

## **The Weekly Standard**

[http://www.weeklystandard.com/editorial-theres-no-scandal-at-the-epa/article/2010883?custom\\_click=rss?utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_source=TWSAutoTweet](http://www.weeklystandard.com/editorial-theres-no-scandal-at-the-epa/article/2010883?custom_click=rss?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=TWSAutoTweet)

### **There's No Scandal at the EPA**

By Editors, 12/18/17

“Another entry from the authoritarian handbook,” says David Axelrod. MSNBC’s Chris Hayes thinks it’s a “hunt” for “ideological subversives.” The public is financing “lies” to “eviscerate environmental protections,” according to Robert Reich.

Liberals accuse their adversaries of fascism pretty regularly these days, so you likely have no idea what is worrying these lefty grandees. To be specific: Over the weekend the New York Times published a story about the Environmental Protection Agency hiring a public relations firm to investigate “agency employees who have been critical of the Trump administration.” A vice president of the firm, Definers Public Affairs, explains it to the Times straightforwardly: they were asked to look into whether EPA employees “were emailing critical things about the agency on government time and how frequently they were corresponding about this.”

In order to discover if employees were engaging in “resistance” activities on the clock, Definers submitted Freedom of Information requests to the agency about the employees. In other words, rather than simply fire or demote employees who undermine the agency’s leadership, EPA administrator Scott Pruitt’s team sought to document the times when these activities took place while the employees were at work.

There is no scandal here. The lawfully appointed head of an agency has every right to find out if employees are actively undercutting his mission and getting paid to do so. Pruitt is loathed by the environmental militants inside the EPA (to understand why, read Fred Barnes’s feature story in the December 25 WEEKLY STANDARD). The use of FOIA requests is an open and lawful way to deal with those who aren’t simply voicing legitimate policy differences but actually impairing the agency’s director. Definers only used public information to file its requests, not internal documents (an important point ignored by the Times in both the original story and a follow-up). That Pruitt’s team dealt with the problem of internal opposition not by secret purges but by use of open-records requests shows a reverence for transparency and the rule of law. If an “authoritarian” regime wanted to “hunt down ideological subversives,” it wouldn’t use FOIA requests. It would just fire them.

The Times is viscerally hostile to Pruitt, and it is hardly surprising that one of its reporters would find a scandal where there is nothing of the sort. Surely a reporter who claims in his Twitter bio that “transparency matters a lot to me” might have stopped to consider this obvious point. But for our paper of record, too often “transparency” only matters when it yields the right kind of political results.

## **The Chicago Tribune**

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/news/ct-ptb-east-chicago-epa-orders-st-1219-20171218-story.html>

## **EPA orders companies blamed for East Chicago contamination to pay for cleanup**

By Craig Lyons, 12/18/17

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The EPA on Monday announced it filed two unilateral administrative orders against six companies held responsible for the contamination in East Chicago's Calumet neighborhood, which is a part of the U.S.S. Lead Superfund site.

The orders would compel the companies – U.S.S. Lead, Atlantic Richfield Co., DuPont, Chemours, United States Metals Refining Co. and Mueller Industries – to remediate contaminated soil in Zone 2, which runs from McCook to Huish Drive, and do indoor dust cleaning in that area and Zone 3, which runs east of Huish. The EPA said its staff will oversee the contractors the companies hire to do the work.

"We continue to make cleaning up East Chicago a priority, to protect the health and well-being of the residents who live in the impacted areas," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt in a statement.

The EPA estimated the companies will have to pay \$24 million for the remediation, according to the announcement, and \$2.25 million for the indoor dust cleaning.

The new agreements come almost a week after the EPA said the costs to remove contaminated soil from two neighborhoods on the Superfund site could quadruple from what was initially estimated.

The EPA said the cost anticipated for the two residential zones of the Calumet neighborhood are

expected to increase from the estimated \$22.8 million to an estimated \$84.9 million.

The EPA said it based the initial cost estimate on sampling done at 7 percent of the homes in those two residential areas, according to documents, but now that testing has been done at 90 percent of the properties, the data showed more the remediate would require more resources.

The EPA's remediation plan for zones 2 and 3 includes excavation of contaminated soil to a maximum depth of 24 inches; disposal of the contaminated material; and restoring the yards once new soil is filled in, according to EPA documents.

The U.S.S. Lead Superfund site is one of 21 that Pruitt put on a list of sites in need of immediate and intense attention. Pruitt visited East Chicago in April and it was the first Superfund site he had went to after taking office.

Pruitt last week put the U.S.S. Lead Superfund site on a list of 21 sites across the county in need of immediate and intense attention, according to a press release.

"Getting toxic land sites cleaned up and revitalized is of the utmost importance to the communities across the country that are affected by these sites," Pruitt said, in a statement. "I have charged the Superfund Task Force to immediately and intently develop plans for each of these sites to ensure they are thoughtfully addressed with urgency."

## The Washington Free Beacon

<http://freebeacon.com/blog/epa-bureaucrats-complain-pruitt-doesnt-want-conspire-trump/>

### **EPA Bureaucrats Complain Pruitt Doesn't Want Them to Conspire Against Trump**

By Elizabeth Harrington, 12/19/17



EPA bureaucrats are running to the New York Times to complain that Administrator Scott Pruitt doesn't want them conspiring against him or President Donald Trump.

"E.P.A. Employees Spoke Out. Then Came Scrutiny of Their Email," the Times writes breathlessly, implying that Pruitt himself is scouring over their emails. (He's not.)

Readers have to get to the 17th paragraph to realize that the "scrutiny of their email" was from a Republican lawyer outside the agency who filed Freedom of Information Act requests after the bureaucrats had very publicly blasted Trump and Pruitt.

But for the Times, it's a "witch hunt" against career bureaucrats, and three star-crossed employees bold enough to speak out against Trump:

One Environmental Protection Agency employee spoke up at a private lunch held near the agency headquarters, saying she feared the nation might be headed toward an 'environmental catastrophe.' Another staff member, from Seattle, sent a letter to Scott Pruitt, the E.P.A. administrator, raising similar concerns about the direction of the agency. A third, from Philadelphia, went to a rally where he protested against agency budget cuts.

Three different agency employees, in different jobs, from three different cities, but each encountered a similar outcome: Federal records show that within a matter of days, requests were submitted for copies of emails written by them that mentioned either Mr. Pruitt or President Trump, or any communication with Democrats in Congress that might have been critical of the agency.

Another take: people notice when employees publicly criticize their boss. And if it's in politics, Republican operatives might want to know if employees are actively working to sabotage a Republican administration.

The Times doesn't mention that the bureaucrats—Elizabeth Southerland, Michael Cox, and Gary Morton—all either leaked to liberal news outlets to criticize Pruitt and Trump, or attended "resistance" rallies.

Allan Blutstein, the lawyer who is vice president of FOIA Operations at the Republican group America Rising, told the Times that he submitted the requests for "employees who had made public statements critical of Mr. Pruitt."

"He said he wanted to know if any of them had used agency email inappropriately, or had violated agency rules in some other way — findings that he could use to compromise efforts to undermine Mr. Pruitt's work," the Times wrote.

"Compromise efforts to undermine Mr. Pruitt's work." Read another way: Republicans want to see if these career bureaucrats who hate Pruitt are working to sabotage the administration.

I wonder why Republicans would worry about that?

"Washington Bureaucrats Are Quietly Working to Undermine Trump's Agenda," Bloomberg reported Monday, just a day after the Times defense of the three resistance bureaucrats at the EPA.

Bloomberg writes, "Some of the roughly two million career staff have found ways to obstruct, slow down, or simply ignore their new leader, the president."

The article even prints one career bureaucrat's "checklist" for resistance. Joel Clement, a former bureaucrat in the Department of Interior, says others should start "leaking documents," and "slowing down the implementation of the policy," after first trying a "legitimate approach before you obstruct," of course.

The Times says now bureaucrats are living under a "wave of fear," and that they could get in trouble for tweeting "critical comments" against EPA management. (Maybe don't bad mouth your boss on social media.)

But the employees the Times highlighted don't have much to worry about.

Southerland and Cox took early retirement. Both went to a liberal Washington Post columnist Joe Davidson to publicize their dissatisfaction when they were on their way out the door.

Cox leaked his anti-Trump letter in April, which the Post ran under the headline, "EPA staffer leaves with a bang, blasting agency policies under Trump."

In his letter, Cox said he was "frankly insulted" that President Trump would visit the EPA, and that Trump did so to "give us the finger." He called the Trump administration "arrogant and callous," and accused Pruitt of having "not done your homework" on the Paris climate deal."

"Fortunately," Cox wrote, "there are other global leaders, including China and India, who understand the urgency of the problem and are taking action."

Blutstein filed a FOIA request on Cox a few days after Cox went to the Washington Post.

In August, Southerland leaked her complaints against the Trump administration to the Post, claiming she was retiring in protest. She claimed EPA wouldn't be able to do the "right thing" under Trump. A FOIA request was filed the next day.

It turns out Southerland was not retiring in protest of Trump, but said in emails that she "needed to retire to help out with family medical care."

As for Morton, he's the head of an EPA government union who has said, "The EPA as we know it might not exist any more" because of Trump.

"His emails were targeted seven days after he participated in a union rally in March challenging proposed budget cuts," the Times reported.

The Times fails to mention it was a "resistance" rally, organized by Morton's union the American Federation of Government Employees.

"This is a witch hunt against E.P.A. employees who are only trying to protect human health and the environment," Morton now says.

I'd call it a "resistance hunt." And it's not that difficult when you do it out in the open.

## Bloomberg

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-12-18/pruitt-s-epa-turns-to-lean-manufacturing-to-speed-up-reviews>

### **Pruitt's EPA Turns to 'Lean Manufacturing' to Speed Up Reviews**

By Eric Rosen and John Lippert, 12/18/17

President Donald Trump's bid to speed up regulatory approvals is relying on a "lean manufacturing" approach inspired by Toyota Motor Corp.

The Environmental Protection Agency's chief of operations has a long history of implementing Toyota's concept, which focuses on labor-management dialogue to curb defects and cut delays. The agency is in discussions about entering into a contract with Toyota's management spinoff to help it accomplish its goals.

"It's not about policy. It's not about specific decisions," Henry Darwin, the EPA operations chief, said in an interview. It's "about the process that we use in order to basically eliminate waste and maximize customer value."

Before joining the EPA, Darwin had a 20-year career in Arizona where he served as director of the Department of Environmental Quality and then as chief of operations. He led development of the state's management strategy for Governor Doug Ducey before leaving at the end of June.

Still, overhauling how the agency works may face difficulties at the EPA where many members of the 15,000 workforce have bristled under the leadership of Trump and Administrator Scott Pruitt. This year EPA ranked 22nd out of 23 mid-size federal agencies in how its employees rate the effectiveness of its senior leaders, according to a survey by the Partnership for Public Service.

EPA is a sprawling organization, offering everything from advice on eradicating bedbugs to state-by-state data showing the first frost of autumn comes later than it ever has historically. Pruitt, who sued the agency a number of times while attorney general of Oklahoma, came into the agency pledging to scale-back its reach, leave more rulemaking and enforcement to states and get "back to basics." Critics, including Democrats in Congress, have said he's too cozy with the industries he's supposed to regulate and wondered about the need for a \$25,000 soundproof "privacy booth."

Pruitt dropped Darwin's name this month at a congressional oversight hearing when explaining that the agency is "actually partnering with Toyota to begin a 'lean' process at the agency to evaluate management practices."

"The agency for many years — and this is something I found surprising — has not measured outcomes consistently," he added.

Toyota introduced lean manufacturing into the U.S. in the 1980s when it began building factories outside Japan for the first time. For a quarter century, Toyota has also had a non-profit affiliate, called the Toyota Production System Support Center, that consults with Toyota suppliers and outside manufacturers, and provides advice to organizations, such as hospitals, food banks and governments.

The EPA and several other agencies are in talks with the TSSC about a contract on how they could redesign the way they conduct environmental reviews and permit "high-priority" infrastructure projects -- pipelines, ports, bridges and the electricity grid.

Pruitt's name check of Toyota raised some initial concerns that EPA was partnering with a company that it also regulated. Since the contract under discussion would be with a non-profit affiliate, the risks aren't as great, said George Wyeth, a career EPA attorney who retired this year.

"There is a potential ethics issue here, but not a big one," Wyeth said in an interview.

Still, longtime staff members are skeptical. It's not the first time the agency has tapped a management trend, according to John O'Grady, a 31-year EPA veteran who spoke in his capacity as president of Council 238 of the American Federation of Government Employees.

"I've been through too many flavors-of-the-month, of-the-year, whatever it is. They do it intensely for a while -- and then it just goes away," he said. "I'm very skeptical."

O'Grady said he's concerned that, because the agency hasn't conducted a true workforce analysis in 20 years, any decisions about the organization won't have sufficient data. And that could lead to staff cuts when more staff may be necessary to work on the EPA's growing portfolio, he said.

Darwin said that "lean" is in some ways a misnomer, and the goal of the process at EPA isn't to cut staff.

"It's not about creating the ability to reduce the size of an organization," Darwin said. "What it can do is allow it to become more effective and more efficient so that if we do create a capacity to do more with less."

## Reuters

[http://www.weeklystandard.com/editorial-theres-no-scandal-at-the-epa/article/2010883?custom\\_click=rss?utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_source=TWSAutoTweet](http://www.weeklystandard.com/editorial-theres-no-scandal-at-the-epa/article/2010883?custom_click=rss?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=TWSAutoTweet)

## **There's No Scandal at the EPA**

By Editors, 12/18/17

The agency's advance notice kicks off a 60-day comment period on "specific topics for the Agency to consider in developing any subsequent proposed rule," according to an EPA release.

The move comes after the agency proposed in October to repeal the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, a collection of emissions standards for U.S. states intended to reduce pollution from power plants - the largest emitters of greenhouse gases - by 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

"The EPA sets out and requests comment on the roles, responsibilities, and limitations of the federal government, state governments, and regulated entities in developing and implementing such a rule, and the EPA solicits information regarding the appropriate scope of such a rule and associated technologies and approaches," the notice says.

When EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt first announced he planned to repeal the Clean Power Plan, it was not clear whether the agency intended to replace it. At his first congressional hearing earlier this month, Pruitt said he planned to replace it.

The notice specifically asks for comment on measures to reduce carbon emissions directly at a power plant.

Obama's Clean Power Plan allowed states to reduce power plant emissions by using a series of different measures across their plant fleets, which some industry groups said went beyond the scope of the federal Clean Air Act.

The EPA is also asking for comment on the role and responsibility of states in regulating power plants for greenhouse gas emissions.

The notice said EPA also wants to hear from states including California and New York, which already have programs to reduce emissions from power plants, to see how their programs could interact with a replacement rule.

Environmental groups, who plan to continue challenging the agency's moves against the CPP in court, said on Monday the agency is not serious about offering a valid replacement to the Obama-era regulation.

"A weaker replacement of the Clean Power Plan is a non-starter. Americans - who depend on EPA to protect their health and climate - deserve real solutions, not scams," said David Doniger, director of climate and clean air at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

## The Hill

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/365495-epa-chief-pruitt-had-office-swept-for-surveillance-bugs#.Wjg7sWMetRY.twitter>

### **EPA chief Pruitt had office swept for surveillance bugs**

By Tim Cama, 12/18/17

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had his office professionally examined earlier this year to look for covert surveillance devices.

The EPA paid \$3,000 in March to Edwin Steinmetz Associates to do a "sweep for covert/illegal surveillance devices" in Administrator Scott Pruitt's office at the agency's Washington, D.C., headquarters, documents provided to The Hill show.



The EPA source that provided the documents on the condition of anonymity said the sweep, which came weeks after Pruitt's arrival at the agency, did not uncover any bugs.

Pruitt has taken a number of steps to guard his security and privacy in his time as EPA head.

He is the first EPA administrator to have a 24-hour security detail, encompassing a staff of dozens of agents at a six-figure annual cost, often pulling agents away from environmental enforcement matters. He paid nearly \$25,000 for a secure phone booth in his office, despite an existing secure compartmentalized information facility (SCIF) elsewhere in the building.

Pruitt's staff has declined to release his schedule in advance over security concerns, and the New York Times reported that he asks some employees to leave their phones behind when meeting with him.

Like other security measures, the EPA defended the surveillance sweep as a response to unprecedented threats against Pruitt, whose aggressive deregulatory agenda has angered environmentalists and many others.

"Administrator Pruitt has received an unprecedented amount of threats against him and security decisions are made by EPA's Protective Service Detail," EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said.

Lisa Jackson, who was EPA administrator from 2009 to 2013 under former President Barack Obama, also had a similar security sweep undertaken in the office, Wilcox said. Apple Inc., where Jackson oversees environmental initiatives, did not respond to a request for comment.

The Washington Post reported in September that the EPA had seen more threats against Pruitt than any previous administrator.

Doug Parker, who worked at the EPA for 25 years, mostly as a special agent in the criminal investigation division, said a bug sweep of the administrator's office is unusual.

“It doesn’t strike me as completely out of left field, but it’s certainly not routine, even in the administrator’s office,” said Parker, who retired in 2016 and now leads Earth & Water Strategies, a Washington, D.C., consulting firm.

“There could be valid concerns,” Parker said, pointing to national security-related conversations and foreign delegations that sometimes come to the EPA building.

“But it is certainly not something that was a routine occurrence in past administrator’s offices.”

## Reuters

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/12/19/us-congress-poised-to-approve-biggest-tax-overhaul-in-30-years.html>

### **US Congress poised to approve biggest tax overhaul in 30 years**

By Staff, 12/19/17

The Republican-controlled U.S. Congress will begin voting on Tuesday on the biggest overhaul of the U.S. tax system in more than 30 years, with little standing in the way of the party's first major legislative triumph under President Donald Trump.

The House of Representatives, which introduced initial tax legislation barely six weeks ago on Nov. 2, was poised to act first with a Tuesday afternoon vote.

The Senate could follow on Tuesday night or Wednesday morning, after completing 10 hours of debate, lawmakers said.

With strict party-line votes expected in both chambers, passage appeared all but certain.

Republicans insist that the sweeping package of tax cuts for corporations, small businesses and individuals will boost economic and job growth. They also see the measure as key to having any hope of retaining their majorities in the House and Senate when voters go to the polls next November.

The end-of-year sprint toward passage represents a remarkable recovery of Republican fortunes since the middle of this year, when the party's drive to dismantle former Democratic President Barack Obama's Obamacare healthcare law crumbled in the Senate and prospects for a tax overhaul seemed doomed by party infighting.

Lingering doubts about fate of the tax bill all but vanished on Monday after two of the last Senate Republican holdouts, Susan Collins and Mike Lee, agreed to support the legislation.

"I'm ready to vote," Republican Senator John Kennedy told Reuters. "I felt like we should have voted this weekend."

'New Gilded Age'

Democrats, who unanimously oppose the Republican bill, railed against it as a giveaway to corporations and the wealthy that would add \$1.5 trillion to the federal debt over the next decade and deepen the U.S. income gap between rich and poor.

"There are so many rip-offs in this bill that people are going to say this is some kind of new Gilded Age," said Senator Ron Wyden, top Democrat on the Senate Tax Committee.

The House, where Republicans hold a 239-193 voting majority, was likely to see a smattering of "no" votes from Republican fiscal hawks and lawmakers from the high-tax states of New York, New Jersey and California who oppose a provision that would scale back a popular deduction for state and local taxes.

"It's still a bill that's going to give tax relief to other parts of America on the backs of New Yorkers. So I'm still going to vote 'no,'" said Republican Representative Dan Donovan of New York.

The legislation would also repeal a federal fine imposed on Americans under Obamacare for not obtaining health insurance coverage, a change that could undermine the 2010 healthcare law formally known as the Affordable Care Act.

Vice President Mike Pence took the precaution of rescheduling a trip to Egypt and Israel for January to be on hand this week, just in case his tie-breaking voting power is needed to ensure Senate passage of the tax bill.

Republicans, who control the 100-seat Senate by only a 52-48 margin, can afford to lose support from no more than two party lawmakers. Republican Senator Jeff Flake was still undecided late on Monday. Senator John McCain, who has brain cancer, was spending time with family in Arizona.

## The Washington Post

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-teams-meeting-with-muellers-office-poised-to-ratchet-up-tensions/2017/12/18/15dac668-e41d-11e7-a65d-1ac0fd7f097e\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.6bed5005d264](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-teams-meeting-with-muellers-office-poised-to-ratchet-up-tensions/2017/12/18/15dac668-e41d-11e7-a65d-1ac0fd7f097e_story.html?utm_term=.6bed5005d264)

### **Trump team's meeting with Mueller's office poised to ratchet up tensions**

By Devlin Barrett, Josh Dawsey, and Carol Leonnig, 12/19/17

White House lawyers are expected to meet with special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's office late this week seeking good news: that his sprawling investigation's focus on President Trump will soon end and their client will be cleared.

But people familiar with the probe say that such assurances are unlikely and that the meeting could trigger a new, more contentious phase between the special counsel and a frustrated president, according to administration officials and advisers close to Trump.

People with knowledge of the investigation said it could last at least another year — pointing to ongoing cooperation from witnesses such as former Trump campaign adviser George Papadopoulos and former national security adviser Michael Flynn, as well as a possible trial of two former Trump campaign officials. The special counsel's office has continued to request new documents related to the campaign, and members of Mueller's team have told others they expect to be working through much of 2018, at a minimum.

The dynamic threatens to intensify the already inflamed political atmosphere enveloping the investigation into Russia's meddling in the 2016 election. Even as White House lawyers have pledged to cooperate with Mueller, Trump and his allies have accused the Justice Department and FBI of bias and overreach.

The latest salvo came this past weekend, when a lawyer for the presidential transition accused Mueller of wrongfully obtaining thousands of emails sent and received by Trump officials before the start of his administration. The special counsel's office said all the material was legally obtained.

The meeting's outcome could deepen tensions as many Trump supporters question Mueller's credibility and Democrats express fear that the president will seek to fire the special counsel.

Ty Cobb, the White House lawyer overseeing the response to the Russia investigation, did not respond to phone calls and text messages seeking comment. Peter Carr, a spokesman for the special counsel, declined to comment.

White House lawyers have told the president he could be exonerated as early as the beginning of the year, after previously reassuring him that he would be cleared by Thanksgiving and

Christmas, as The Washington Post previously reported. They have stated publicly that all White House interviews are over and that Mueller's team is no longer seeking White House documents.

In the meeting this week, they plan to ask Mueller's investigators if they need more information before reaching a conclusion that the probe as related to Trump is complete, according to a person familiar with the Trump team's plan who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private conversations.

The question that White House lawyers will pose to the special counsel's office, according to the person: "You've had all these witnesses, all these records. Is there anything else you need from the White House?"

Until now, Trump's legal team has repeatedly pledged cooperation with Mueller's office. A White House spokesman said there was no plan to change the strategy.

Trump's legal team has reassured him that it sees no evidence of collusion or obstruction in the records that it turned over, White House advisers said. While the lawyers have told Trump that they expect the investigative team will continue its work related to former campaign chairman Paul Manafort deep into next year, as well as possibly Flynn, they said they believe Mueller should be close to wrapping up the focus on the current White House.

Trump himself has expressed frustration with the probe but has shown optimism that it will not touch him. He told associates recently that he harbors no deep concern over the investigation and noted that his lawyers talk with Mueller's team regularly, according to a person who spoke with Trump last week and spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe a private conversation.

When pressed by two advisers to take the matter more seriously and asked why he is so confident in his lawyers, Trump brushed off the concerns. "He is living in his own world," the person said, predicting that Trump would erupt at some point in 2018 if the probe continued to drag on.

Another associate said that even in private, Trump is "confident, even arrogant" that he has done

nothing wrong.

“There is no collusion,” the president said at the White House on Sunday, after saying he was not planning to fire Mueller.

Among people familiar with the probe, there is widespread skepticism that the special counsel’s investigation is drawing to a close.

Already, Manafort and his former deputy Rick Gates have been indicted on money-laundering and other charges related to work they did in Ukraine before the 2016 race. Two others have pleaded guilty and are cooperating, giving investigators new leads to pursue. Agents have gathered huge volumes of documents and conducted their first round of interviews with White House officials.

As recently as last week, Mueller’s team was still asking questions about the firing of James B. Comey as FBI director, one person said.

Legal experts said Mueller would have little incentive to clear the president or other White House aides while he is seeking more information from witnesses.

“I think it’s possible Mueller’s team could give them an idea of how much longer they anticipate their investigation will last,” said Peter Zeidenberg, the former deputy special counsel who helped investigate the leak of Valerie Plame’s covert role as a CIA operative. “I would be shocked if they have a timeline anything similar to what we’ve heard coming from the White House.”

“As far as a clean bill of health, I can’t imagine they are going to be prepared to make a decision like that at this point,” he said of the special counsel’s team. “They are not going to be in a position to make that call until they finish this case and finish discussing all the evidence they have.”

Mark Corallo, a former spokesman for Trump's legal team, said he thinks it is unlikely that the probe wraps up by the end of the year, but he said he believes it could conclude in the spring. He said that Mueller is aware of the political implications surrounding his investigation.

"Bob understands you can't have a president who is living under this cloud of uncertainty," Corallo said, adding that he believes it is possible that the special counsel will at some point call Trump's lawyers and say, "We are done with the president. There is nothing there."

The high-stakes meeting between White House lawyers and Mueller's team comes as conservative lawmakers and pundits have intensified their demands for a second special counsel to investigate the FBI, pointing to text messages between two former FBI officials discussing their dislike of Trump.

"We are now beginning to understand the magnitude of the insider bias on Mueller's team," House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) said last week. Another member of the committee, Rep. Steve Chabot (R-Ohio), said Mueller and his team should wear "Democratic Donkeys or Hillary T-shirts."

A White House adviser said the president has enjoyed the attacks. In recent weeks, he has spoken to a number of Fox News hosts, Republican lawmakers and others who have castigated Mueller's team, the adviser said.

The attacks on Mueller's investigation grew this weekend after an attorney for the presidential transition told congressional investigators Saturday that thousands of pages of the organization's communications were provided to Mueller by the federal General Services Administration.

Trump's lawyers learned Mueller had the emails this month when witnesses were quizzed on the material. Some of the documents contained sensitive information that wasn't related to the Russia investigation, according to a person familiar with the material.

A GSA spokeswoman declined to comment. Mueller's team said it obtained all documents



legally.

# The Wall Street Journal

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/middle-class-to-get-23-of-tax-cuts-for-individuals-under-gop-bill-1513644268>

## **Middle Class to Get 23% of Tax Cuts for Individuals Under GOP Bill**

By Editors, 12/19/17

Middle-income households will get \$61 billion in tax cuts in 2019 under the Republican tax plan poised for passage this week, according to an analysis released late Monday by Congress's Joint Committee on Taxation.

That amounts to 23% of the tax cuts that go directly to individuals. By 2027, however, these households would get a net tax increase, because tax cuts are set to expire under the proposed law.

The calculations are based on JCT estimates of cuts going to households that earn \$20,000 to \$100,000 a year in wages, dividends and benefits. Those households account for about half of all U.S. tax filers, with nearly a quarter making more and a quarter making less.

The Trump administration has emphasized the benefits of the tax plan for middle-income households.

America's most-affluent households, those earning \$500,000 or more a year, which account for 1% of filers, would also get \$61 billion in cuts in the first year, according to the JCT analysis. They would get a cut of \$12 billion by 2027.

That includes income earned by pass-through businesses such as partnerships and S-corporations that pay taxes on individual returns. It doesn't include the benefits of estate-tax reductions.

Much of the rest would go to businesses in the form of corporate tax cuts, according to the JCT analysis.

The tax plan took another step toward passage Monday, when Maine Republican Sen. Susan Collins, who had been on the fence, said she would support the bill. Mr. Trump plans to sign the bill later this week.

Trump administration officials argue the business tax cuts will help individuals, too, because it will induce companies to hire more and boost workers' wages.

"I don't think it necessarily changes my life one way or another," said Lisa Joles of Concord, Ohio, who runs the heat and air-conditioning repair shop her parents started in the 1970s. Her business brought in about \$1.5 million this past year, and she takes home about \$50,000 a year. "It could give me or someone else in the middle class that little bit of extra money that they may go out and spend, and it may boost the economy, but I almost feel like that would be a short-term effect."

The muted reaction is consistent with polls showing that the tax cuts aren't very popular. A Quinnipiac University poll released last week found that 55% of those surveyed disapprove of the tax plan, compared with 26% who support it. Republicans were the only group who supported the tax plan, with the support of 66%.

Many households are still weighing how the complicated plan will affect them. The plan recasts many features of the individual tax code—doubling a child tax credit and the standard deduction for households, while narrowing deductions for state and local taxes, mortgages and the personal exemption. That means it will play out differently for many, depending on factors such as whether they live in high-tax states, have big mortgages or have many children.

Cory Dahl, 59, a pastor who lives in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., said that even though a few extra

hundred dollars a year won't make much difference, he is happy to get it. "Five hundred dollars is not a ton of money, but I'd rather have it in my bank account than in my tax payment," he said.

Mr. Dahl has taken the standard deduction in recent years, and he lives in a church-owned home, so he has no mortgage. He thinks raising the standard deduction will help middle-class households like his.

His niece, Katie Dahl, who lives 20 miles away in Baileys Harbor, Wis., is apprehensive. She said her biggest concern is the repeal of the Affordable Care Act requirement that individuals buy health insurance. Both Ms. Dahl, 34, and her husband, Rich Higdon, who is a musician and a potter, rely on the ACA exchange for a heavily subsidized health-insurance plan. They pay \$12 a month for a silver-level plan that covers both of them. With an income of about \$41,000 a year, Ms. Dahl says the ACA has made them both confident that they could survive as self-employed artists.

"I'm worried what the mandate will do to premiums, and if it will go so far as to start the unraveling of Obamacare, which has been a big boon to us financially," she said.

While the middle class as a whole will see benefits, some people will end up worse off. Using an alternative measure of household income, the Tax Policy Center found that of those households in the very middle of the income distribution, making \$48,600 to \$86,100 a year, 91.3% would receive a tax cut next year. But 7.3% would receive a tax increase. By 2025, 10.9% would receive a tax increase.

Many taxpayers are worried that they will fall into that latter group. Jon Rose, 45, who runs a car-detailing shop in Carlisle, Pa., could see a cut from his current top tax rate of 25% because he runs an S corporation, a pass-through business that is eligible for a 20% deduction from business income if it meets certain conditions. His accountant told him he would likely save about \$3,000 as a result of tax changes. The problem, he said, is that his accountant also said he has about \$16,000 worth of personal exemptions that he would no longer be able to claim.

Congress has raised the child-tax credit to \$2,000 a child, but he was even dubious about how much that would help him. "I only have two kids, it's not like I have 16," said Mr. Rose, whose wife is a high-school teacher. "It doesn't sound great."

He said that if he somehow ends up saving an extra \$500 or even \$1,000, that wouldn't mean too much to him. "I wouldn't even notice," he said. "It wouldn't make any difference, especially if it's just coming out gradually over time. If it's \$1,000, it's \$40 a paycheck. That's dinner."

## Corrections & Amplifications

An earlier version of this article incorrectly reported that middle-income households would receive \$144 billion in total tax cuts over a decade under the Republican tax plan, or 10% of the total net tax cut. It also incorrectly reported that affluent households making more than \$500,000 would receive \$171 billion in total tax cuts over a decade. Those calculations were based on an incorrect reading of tables released Monday by the Joint Committee on Taxation. The article also incorrectly reported that households making \$500,000 or more comprise 6% of total filers. They comprise 1% of total filers.

# TRUMP TWEETS



**Donald J. Trump** @realDonaldTrump · 3h

DOW RISES 5000 POINTS ON THE YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER - MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!

6.1K 8.2K 36K



**Donald J. Trump** @realDonaldTrump · 2h

Stocks and the economy have a long way to go after the Tax Cut Bill is totally understood and appreciated in scope and size. Immediate expensing will have a big impact. Biggest Tax Cuts and Reform EVER passed. Enjoy, and create many beautiful JOBS!

5.8K 5.2K 24K



**To:** Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Love, Kelly A. EOP/WHO **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy** Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Rateike, Bradley A. EOP/WHO  
**Sent:** Fri 2/16/2018 4:32:39 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Bloomberg: EPA Chief's First-Class Travel Was Prompted by 'Aggressive' Encounters

Brad Rateike  
White House Communications  
202.881.8645

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** RNC War Room <Warroom@gop.com>  
**Date:** February 15, 2018 at 8:59:14 PM EST  
**To:** undisclosed-recipients;;  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Bloomberg: EPA Chief's First-Class Travel Was Prompted by 'Aggressive' Encounters

## **EPA Chief's First-Class Travel Was Prompted by 'Aggressive' Encounters**

Bloomberg

Jennifer A Dlouhy

February 15, 2018 – 6:21 PM

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-15/epa-chief-s-high-flying-travel-prompted-by-vulgar-encounters>

- *Security chief for cabinet official explains first-class trips*
- *Pruitt's environmental rollbacks have spurred angry encounters*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt's much-criticized reliance on first-class flights to whisk him around the world is necessary to ensure his protection amid 'vulgar' encounters and threats from the public, EPA security officials said Thursday.

The EPA chief has regularly sat in first- and business- class seats during his nearly one year leading the agency, generating a storm of controversy. Pruitt's pricey travel, according to travel records first reported by the Washington Post, included a \$1,641.43 trip from Washington, D.C. to New York City last June and a round-trip ticket to Italy last summer that cost \$7,003.52.

"The agents have to make sure he's in a position where they can protect him," the director of EPA's Office of Criminal Enforcement, Henry Barnet, said in an interview. "If he's surrounded by other members of the public or it's a threat, their job is to push him and pull him away from those threats. That's why it is imperative to keep him away from the individuals so they can keep him safe."

The EPA's inspector general is auditing Pruitt's travel, examining the frequency, cost and extent of his trips.

Government officials are supposed to incur travel expenses "that a prudent person would exercise if traveling on personal business," according to the code of federal regulations. In practice, that generally means opting for the least-expensive class of travel, though government agencies can authorize upgrades in the case of long flights lasting more than 14 hours, medical disabilities or "exceptional" security circumstances where sitting in coach would endanger the official's life or government property.

As head of the EPA, Pruitt has been on the front lines of the Trump administration's efforts to roll back a suite of Obama-era regulations governing climate change and pollution, making him a target for environmentalists' anger. Even before he took the helm of the EPA, Pruitt was fighting the agency from the outside, as an Oklahoma attorney general that participated in more than a dozen lawsuits challenging its rules and regulations.

The shift to first-class travel began after May 2017, when EPA officials saw how recognizable Pruitt was to the general public, Barnet said. There were "incidents where he was being approached -- vulgar language, people were being somewhat

aggressive towards him -- and so the special agent in charge provided documentation -- a memo -- to me and up the chain of command requesting the administrator be placed in business- or first-class to avoid these potential issues for the safety of the administrator."

The less-populated, smaller quarters of first-class allow special agents to quickly respond to possible threats, Barnet said.

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said the agency submits a security-related waiver for each trip Pruitt takes.

The EPA also has been hiring and training a dozen new security agents to provide Pruitt with around-the-clock protection. An internal threat assessment is being conducted every 90 days.

And at times, fellow airplane passengers have taken to Twitter and Facebook to highlight Pruitt is on board their flight, said Nino Perrotta, the EPA special agent in charge who has protected EPA administrators going back to the George W. Bush administration. Perrotta described a "high level of unusual interest in the administrator," calling it the most he's ever seen while safeguarding EPA chiefs.

In October, Pruitt told Bloomberg News he was facing what security officials described as "unprecedented" threats. That includes threats to family members, Barnet said.

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.



**To:** Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]  
**From:** Bowman, Liz  
**Sent:** Thur 5/18/2017 12:15:44 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: EPA weekly look ahead: May 17-May 24  
05.15.2017 EPA Report for WH Comms Planning.docx  
ATT00001.htm

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Freire, JP" <Freire.JP@epa.gov>  
**Date:** May 17, 2017 at 7:53:48 PM EDT  
**To:** "Rateike, Bradley A. EOP/WHO" <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>, "Ditto, Jessica E. EOP/WHO" <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>, "Levell, Leah V. EOP/WHO" <Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy>, "Dorr, Kaelan K. EOP/WHO"  
**Cc:** "Bowman, Liz" <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>, "Konkus, John" <konkus.john@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** EPA weekly look ahead: May 17-May 24

Good evening, here's a look ahead of our next week. Towards the bottom you'll find some news highlights and grants, just in case there's overlap with any work happening elsewhere.

#### **ITEM 1 (WEEK AHEAD REPORTS):**

##### **Thursday, May 18**

Media: Interview with Daniel Halper, Weekly Standard

Media: Off-record conversation with Coral Davenport (NYT)

[CANCELED] Speak: Hoover Institute on EPA originalism (canceled due to protesters packing the room)

Call: State Policy Network

*Close hold issue: Fiat Chrysler: DOJ possibly filing complaint in Fiat Chrysler case*

*Close hold issue: Expected EPA and California Air Resources Board approval for VW proposal for emissions modification on vehicles*

Internal: Police week messaging supporting our enforcement department

**Friday, May 19**

Meet: Rep. Pete Olson, TX on Air Pollutants (has an ozone bill) (Photo, release)

Media: Radio interview with Brian Kilmeade

Meet: Kentucky Secretary of Energy and Environment Charles Snavely

Speak: Council for National Policy on EPA originalism (Photo, release)

**Monday, May 22, 2017**

Speak: Large Public Power Council CEO Meeting - expectation for future environmental regulation and, conversely, the elimination of regulations affecting the electric power industry. It will be important for them to hear what the Administrator looks for in a successful relationship between EPA and public power.

Speak: Congressional Coal Caucus Meeting

Policy: Submit TSCA Implementation Prioritization Rule to OMB

Submit Risk Evaluation Rule to OMB

Expected Pesticide Applicator Rule submission (could be delayed due to budget news)

**Tuesday, May 23, 2017**

Press: Conference call on Budget with OFRA

Capitol Hill visits (Upton, Costa)

Speak: Congressional Western Caucus Meeting

Speak: American Iron and Steel

### **Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

Speak: American Exploration & Production Council's (AXPC) Annual Washington CEO Meeting

Meet: Kansas Farm Bureau

Speak: 4th Annual Faegre Baker Daniels "Energy and Environment Symposium"

### **Thursday, May 25, 2017**

Regulatory Reform EO Task Force plan to Administrator

## **ITEM 2 (EPA ACCOMPLISHMENTS):**

### **Accomplishments:**

- ✓• **Published** new webpage on WOTUS
- ✓• **Amplified** President Trump's accomplishment in adding more funding to WIFIA program/Water infrastructure
- ✓• **Announced** a new East Chicago customer service plan as follow-up to East Chicago trip to ensure residents have a voice with EPA
- ✓• **Announced** new job training funding across the country for a Brownfields program
- ✓• **Filed** for abeyance in Clean Power Plan case to ensure enforcement doesn't go into effect
- ✓• **Settled** a court case with Pebble Mine and pledged to follow the rules on issuing a permit to the Alaska mine
- ✓• **Enforced** with DOJ/State of Texas to get Vopak to pay \$2.5m penalty and spend an estimated \$4m to control air emissions at their facility.

### **News highlights:**

-

### Wall Street Journal: Editorial: The Pebble Mine Victory

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is wasting no time broadcasting that an era of lawless environmental regulation is over. One of the best signals so far is the agency's agreement last week to let the Pebble Mine project in Alaska proceed through regular permitting and legal order.

-

### Scott Pruitt signals new post Obama era at EPA with Alaska's Pebble Mine decision

The EPA settled a lawsuit with the Pebble Limited Partnership Friday, reversing a longstanding campaign to stop groundbreaking on a massive copper and gold mine in Alaska's Bristol Bay region. Promising economic news, it signals to industry leaders how Trump's EPA will function.

-

### Need to Know Network: EPA Administrator promises to clean up toxic waste sites Obama left behind

Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, **Scott Pruitt**, said that President Trump is committed to cleaning up the more than 1,300 toxic waste sites that were left behind by President Obama during an interview on Wednesday. Pruitt told *Fox and Friends* that many of these sites pose significant health risks to Americans that are living near them and that the **EPA** has been slow to respond, citing "a site outside of St. Louis called Westlake that's taken the **EPA** 27 years to make a decision."

### Buffalo Rising: PUSH Awarded EPA Brownfield Training Funding

The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** announced the selection of 14 organizations to receive funding to operate environmental job training programs for local residents. Funded through the agency's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program (EWDJT), the organizations will receive a total of approximately \$2.7 million to help residents learn the skills needed to secure employment in the environmental field.

-

### Daily Signal: Why Conservatives Should Be Excited About New EPA Agenda

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt has been in his new role for

just over 80 days. He spoke with The Daily Signal about his objectives for the first year, which he says include “getting back to basics.” Pruitt says the agency needs to do a much better job of respecting individual states and the rule of law, and promoting policies that are pro-jobs, pro-growth, and pro-environment.

-

#### **Inside EPA: States welcome EPA's delay of pesticide applicators rule**

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) is backing EPA's one year delay of an Obama-era rule bolstering training requirements for applicators of certain pesticides, saying more time is necessary to adequately train growers before enforcement begins even though NASDA generally supports the rule. EPA announced in a May 11 press release that Administrator Scott Pruitt is postponing by 12 months the looming May 22 implementation of the previous administration's final rule, which overhauls certification and training

#### **The Pulse: Mobile Bay awarded \$344K EPA grant**

The Environmental Protection Agency announced today that the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program will receive a federal grant of approximately \$344,000. “Having a healthy Mobile Bay is vital to the environmental and economic health of America,” said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. “Productive fisheries are the foundation of many coastal communities and they need to be protected, and the National Estuary Program is a place-based program that is helping to protect and restore the water quality and ecological integrity of estuaries of national significance.”

#### **Grants:**

##### **Release of High Profile Grants – 30 Day Outlook as of 5/17/17 11:30am - JK**

**\$56.5 MILLION FOR BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT AND CLEANUP IN 171 COMMUNITIES:** EPA plans to announce \$56.5 million in funding of new brownfields assessments and cleanup in 171 communities across the country. List of grantees will be developed internally this upcoming week. Grant funds may be used to address sites contaminated by, or potentially contaminated by, petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum):

- Assessment grants provide funding for a recipient to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites.

Recipients will each receive approximately \$200,000 - \$600,000 in EPA cooperative agreement funding.

- Cleanup grants provide funding for a recipient to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. An eligible entity may apply for up to \$200,000 per site and up to three sites in a competition cycle.

**Timing:** NEW Projected announcement date is May 31, 2017. **Contact:** John Konkus, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Public Affairs

**\$6.8 MILLION FOR DUSABLE PARK REMEDIATION PROJECT:** This Cooperative Agreement (CA) provides funding in the amount of \$6,800,000 to the Chicago Park District (CPD) to complete property line to property line screening of the fill material for thorium at the DuSable Park site. CPD will remove and dispose of all thorium contaminated material (thorium source material, thorium product, thorium byproduct material/waste, soil, sediments, debris and fill materials with thorium or thorium byproduct contamination).

**Timing:** Mid May 2017 **Contact:** John Konkus, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Public Affairs

**\$2.5 MILLION FOR SOUTHEAST ROCKFORD SOURCE AREA 7 SUPERFUND SITE:** EPA plans to announce an award to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The work to be accomplished is associated with Area 7 Remedial Action (RA) that consist of contractor procurement, preconstruction activities, RA implementation, RA completion and the RA completion report. The overall objective of these tasks is to determine and document that the RA is functioning as designed. The site has been on the EPA national priorities list since 1989.

**Timing:** Mid May 2017. **Contact:** John Konkus, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Public Affairs

**\$2.43 MILLION FOR GREAT LAKES AREA OF CONCERN RESTORATION:** EPA plans to announce This grant provides resources to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to continue its efforts to implement remedial action plans (RAPs) to restore twelve (12) Areas of Concerns (AOCs), and coordinate implementation of the Lakewide Action and Management Plans (LAMPs) for the Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and the Lake St. Clair Comprehensive Management Plan. MDEQ will provide

a Lake Coordinator for each of the four Great Lakes in Michigan to strategically identify and develop the priorities, partnerships, projects, and participation necessary to implement each LAMP and represent Michigan on various LAMP management committees, the Great Lakes Executive Committee, and the GLWQA subcommittee task teams. MDEQ will also focus efforts on removing specific Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) within these AOCs and initiate formal actions for delisting AOCs.

**Timing:** Mid May 2017. **Contact:** John Konkus, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Public Affairs

**\$1.56 MILLION FOR NEW YORK STATE HAZARDOUS WASTE**

**MANAGEMENT:** This agreement is for development and implementation of an authorized hazardous waste management program in New York State to control the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste; to minimize hazardous waste production; and to protect health and the environment from inactive hazardous waste facilities. Activities include permitting, corrective action, inspections, enforcement, computerized tracking, ensuring data quality, and pollution prevention outreach. This will help to preserve and restore the land by reducing waste generation and by managing hazardous wastes properly.

**Timing:** Late May, 2017. **Contact:** John Konkus, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Public Affairs

**\$1.6 MILLION FOR THE ILLIOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:**

This Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) provides funds for the management and operation of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (IEPA) continuing environmental programs while giving flexibility to address its highest priorities, improve performance, achieve savings and strengthen federal/state partnerships. This PPG funds statewide programs to the Bureau of Air, Bureau of Water and the Bureau of Land. The work includes outputs and outcomes associated with managing continuing environmental programs which include activities to protect and maintain air, water, land and data quality.

**Timing:** Late May, 2017. **Contact:** John Konkus, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Public Affairs

**\$1.46 MILLION FOR THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL**

**CONSERVATION:** The Remote Maintenance Worker (RMW) program assists rural Alaska communities in building drinking water and wastewater systems operations and maintenance capacity in order to protect human health and the environment. On site operations and maintenance support and over the shoulder operator training establish

technical capacity and promote compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA).

**Timing:** Late May, 2017. **Contact:** John Konkus, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Public Affairs

**\$1.38 MILLION FOR THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:** EPA plans to announce \$1,388,366 for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to support the State's efforts to protect human health and the environment by reducing air pollution and improving water quality through permitting, enforcement, and compliance efforts and watershed management; reducing hazardous waste & improving waste management practices; preserving underground drinking water sources; and ensuring protection of Public Water Supply Systems.

**Timing:** Week of May 22, 2017. **Contact:** John Konkus, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Public Affairs

**\$1.18 MILLION FOR NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY:** This action approves an increase of \$1,185,038 to the State of North Carolina to assist the State in adopting new drinking water regulations, develop and maintain a water system inventory and database, and perform compliance and enforcement of regulations. The project will help ensure that the State's water supplies are free from contamination which may pose adverse health effects.

**Timing:** Mid to late May, 2017. **Contact:** John Konkus, Deputy Associates Administrator, Office of Public Affairs

**\$1.15 MILLION FOR SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL:** This action approves an increase of \$1,156,250 to the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control which continues support to prevent and reduce pollution, enforce environmental laws, reduce air and water pollution, preserve underground drinking water sources, ensure the safety of public drinking water supplies, manage waste and increase recycling more effectively from creation to disposal in order to protect the environment and health of the citizens throughout the State of South Carolina.

**Timing:** Week of May 22, 2017. **Contact:** John Konkus, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Public Affairs



**6. \$675,083 FOR JOSHUA TEXAS FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE:** EPA plans to announce a one-time Special Appropriation Act Program grant of \$675,083 for the City of Joshua, TX for drainage improvements for their growing city. The funds will help the city install drainage infrastructure to protect public health and support continued economic development.

**Timing:** Today, Wednesday, May 17, 2017. **Contact:** John Konkus, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Public Affairs

**7. \$343,883 FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL ESTURARY PROGRAM:** EPA plans to announce \$343,883 for the State of North Carolina for its National Estuary Program. These funds will be used to identify, restore and protect the significant resources of the region and continue implementation of the unique management strategies.

**Timing:** Tomorrow Thursday, May 18, 2017. **Contact:** John Konkus, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Public Affairs

J.P. Freire

Associate Administrator for Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Mobile: (202) 309-6781



**To:** Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**From:** Bowman, Liz  
**Sent:** Mon 12/18/2017 7:00:11 PM  
**Subject:** RE: follow up questions on Definers Public Affairs contract

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**From:** Friedman, Lisa [mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2017 12:38 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** follow up questions on Definers Public Affairs contract

Hi folks. I have a few follow up questions on the nature of the contract with Definers I hope you can answer.

1. The contract itself notes that it was a sole-source notification, a no-bid contract. Can you explain to me why this qualified as a no-bid contract. Are they the only company that can provide this service? Unique in some way? Is there any written justification that was conducted that you can provide me?

2. You noted in an earlier response to me that in a sole-source notification a notice must be placed on federal websites to other vendors may provide proof of their ability to conduct the services. In this case, you noted, one additional vendor did so. Can you please provide the name and/or response itself of the company that responded?

**3. The contract notes that Definers is self-designated as a disadvantaged business. Executives at Definers said they believe that is a clerical error and that they did not purposely claim any disadvantaged status. Can you please explain to me why the company is designated as such, how that came to be, and if any benefits were incurred to the company because of that status.**

Thanks so much,

Lisa

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

**To:** Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]  
**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Fri 12/15/2017 3:40:30 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Follow up question on MJ story

This is based on our conversation. Please feel free to edit this so that it's 100 percent accurate regarding the process. Thank you.

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**From:** Lisa Friedman [mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2017 10:21 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Follow up question on MJ story

And why was this a no-bid contract when other companies perform the same service?

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, The New York Times

202-862-0306 office

202-251-2083 cell

Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com

Twitter: @LFFriedman

On Dec 15, 2017, at 10:20 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

**“The Definers contract is for media monitoring/news clip compilation. The**

**contract award was handled through the EPA Office of Acquisition Management and was \$87,000 cheaper than our previous media monitoring vendor while offering 24-7 news alerts once a story goes public.” – EPA spokesperson Nancy Grantham**

**From:** Lisa Friedman [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2017 10:15 AM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Follow up question on MJ story

Hello,

Can you please provide a comment about why the news compilation that Definers has been hired to do can not be performed in house?

Secondly - were there any issues with Bulletin that caused EPA to switch providers for this service?

Third, as there are clearly other companies that perform this work – – like the one EPA had previously contracted with – – can you please provide an explanation of why this was a no-bid contract.

Thank you,

Lisa

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, The New York Times

202-862-0306 office

202-251-2083 cell

Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com

Twitter: @LFFriedman

**To:** Ford, Hayley[ford.hayley@epa.gov]  
**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Thur 9/21/2017 5:16:45 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Fall Media

Let's wait – let me connect with James who is dealing with a family item right now.

**From:** Ford, Hayley  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:15 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Fall Media

Hugh is not scheduled for 10/18. Let me know if I should put on the calendar.

## **Hayley Ford**

Deputy White House Liaison

Office of the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

Room: 3309C William Jefferson Clinton North

[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)

Phone: 202-564-2022

Cell: 202-306-1296

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:09 AM  
**To:** Ford, Hayley <ford.hayley@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Hupp, Millan <hupp.millan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Fall Media



# Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**From:** Ford, Hayley

**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:04 AM

**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>; Ferguson, Lincoln <[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov](mailto:ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)>; Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>; Hupp, Millan <[hupp.millan@epa.gov](mailto:hupp.millan@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Fall Media

# Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Thanks!

**Hayley Ford**

Deputy White House Liaison

Office of the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

Room: 3309C William Jefferson Clinton North

[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)

Phone: 202-564-2022

Cell: 202-306-1296

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2017 3:40 PM  
**To:** Ford, Hayley <[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>; Ferguson, Lincoln <[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov](mailto:ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)>; Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fall Media

Below is our Fall Media To-Do-List.

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

### Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

#### Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

This list has been approved by Liz.

#### THE FALL MEDIA TO-DO LIST

**October 11, 2017:** Wall Street Journal / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA  
**October 17, 18, 19 or 20, 2017:** Time Magazine with Justin Worland / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA  
**October 18, 2017:** Hugh Hewitt MSNBC / 30 Minutes / EPA (Believe this is already scheduled)  
**October 24, 2017:** Bloomberg / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA  
  
**October 25, 2017:** Breitbart / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA  
**October 31, 2017:** Washington Examiner with Paul Bedard / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record)) / EPA  
**November 1, 2017:** Washington Post's Daily 202 Breakfast / 60 Minutes (40 On-The-Record) / The Washington Post; 1301 K Street NW  
**November 8, 2017:** Reuters / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA  
  
**TBD (prefer October):** Oklahoman in Oklahoma City

**TBD (prefer October):** Tulsa World in Tulsa

**TBD (mid-October or November):** Print Interview with NTK Network / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / Rosslyn, Virginia

**TBD (October, November or December):** Radio Interview with Resurgent's Gabriella Hoffman

**TBD (October, November or December):** Print Interview with the Washington Free Beacon

**TBD (November or December):** CBS News' The Takeout With Major Garrett

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#### **Time Magazine's Profile With Justin Worland**

**WHAT:** Profile story in Time Magazine

**WHY:** Time Magazine is doing a profile on Scott Pruitt with or without our participation. We have decided to do this interview, but have also requested that it be a podcast as well, so that all of the audio is available from the interview.

#### **The Washington Post's Daily 202 Breakfast With James Hohmann & Juliet Eilperin**

**WHAT:** "The format would be a 40-minute, onstage interview with James at The Washington Post's HQ in D.C. The interview will be entirely conversational, no need for any prepared statements or opening remarks. We would anticipate a live audience of approximately 200 attendees, including senior staff from Congress and the administration, policy experts, business executives and academics. In addition to the in-room audience, we'll also live stream and post video of the conversation across The Washington Post and its digital platforms, including Facebook Live, which regularly draw well-over 100k live viewers."

**WHY:** The Daily 202 is the most-read newsletter in the country. This platform will provide over 100,000 live viewers. Pruitt has a really good relationship with Juliet Eilperin and James Hohmann is a very fair reporter.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:** This interview will be at the Washington Post before 200 invited guests. There will be security, along with plain clothes security and invited guests must show identification to enter the event.

**PREVIOUS GUESTS:** Secretary Wilbur Ross, Kevin McCarthy and Scott Walker.

#### **CBS News' The Takeout With Major Garrett**

**WHAT:** "The Takeout" is a weekly podcast about politics, policy and pop culture hosted by CBS News Chief White House Correspondent Major Garrett and CBS News Political Director Steve Chaggaris. Listeners can expect context and analysis of the week's political news in a casual format that allows for expanded conversation with a newsmaker. Each episode is recorded over a meal at a Washington, D.C. restaurant.

**WHY:** Administrator Pruitt has a previous relationship with Major Garrett.

**PREVIOUS GUESTS:** White House Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel, Corey Lewandowski, former Governor Martin O'Malley.

#### **The Washington Examiner's Paul Bedard**

**WHAT:** Paul Bedard is a longtime D.C. reporter joined the Washington Examiner in 2012 after penning U.S. News & World Report's premiere political column, "Washington Whispers," for more than a decade.

**WHY:** Bedard is a conservative who holds the media accountable and can also write about the EPA's Back-To-Basics Agenda.

**PREVIOUS GUESTS:** Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

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**WHAT:** On-the-record interview with the Wall Street Journal's Tim Puko and Eli Stokols about the EPA's Back-To-Basics Agenda.

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**WHAT:** Similar to our interview with Reuters, this would be a wide-ranging interview with Bloomberg which is not only read by industry officials but also serves as a wire service.

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**WHAT:** Similar to our interview with Reuters from June, this would be a wide-ranging interview with Reuters.

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**WHAT:** Hugh Hewitt hosts a television show on MSNBC and this would be a taped interview for his program.

**WHY:** It's an opportunity to appear on MSNBC while also talking with a conservative ally.

**PREVIOUS GUESTS:** National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster, HUD Secretary Ben Carson and Senator Tom Cotton

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**WHAT:** Need to Know (NTK) Network is a news outlet founded by former Mitt Romney campaign manager Matt Rhoades and former RNC Research Director Joe Pounder. This interview will consist of 5 questions, which we will receive ahead of time.

**WHY:** Pruitt has also mentioned that he'd like to meet Matt Drudge and Rhoades is one of the closest people to him.

- " [Matt Rhoades] is an expert at manipulating the news cycle with a coveted connection to the elusive media power broker Matt Drudge."

- "In 2008 (and 2012) that was how Mitt Romney was stronger than many people gave him credit for. (That coverage was attributed in no small part to Drudge's close working relationship with Romney campaign manager Matt Rhoades.)"

**PREVIOUS GUESTS:** Former Speaker Newt Gingrich

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**WHAT:** The Resurgent is a conservative website founded by Erik Erickson.

**WHY:** Good conservative outlet founded by conservative Erik Erickson.

**PREVIOUS GUESTS:** Senator Mike Lee, Congressman Dave Brat

**Print Interview with Breitbart's Matt Boyle**

**WHAT:** An interview with Breitbart's editor Matt Boyle

**WHY:** Good conservative outlet that is read throughout Washington, especially by mainstream reporters. Additionally, Breitbart has written a number of favorable stories for the EPA.

**PREVIOUS GUESTS:** President Donald Trump in the Oval Office.

**Print Interview with the Washington Free Beacon's Liz Harrington**

**WHAT:** An interview with the Washington Free Beacon, who writes favorable coverage regarding the work EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is doing at the EPA.

**WHY:** Good conservative outlet that also is syndicated on Fox News' website.

**Print Interview with the Tulsa World's Randy Krehbiel**

**WHAT:** An interview with the Tulsa World, regarding the work EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is doing at the EPA.

**Print Interview with the Oklahoman's Paul Rand Monies**

**WHAT:** An interview with the Oklahoman, regarding the work EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is doing at the EPA.

---

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Work Cell: 202.309.0934

Work Email: [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)

**To:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]  
**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Tue 6/6/2017 7:51:53 PM  
**Subject:** Here's a resume for a writer and researcher  
Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy [Resume.pdf](#)

Jahan Wilcox  
EPA  
Strategic Communications Advisor  
Work Cell: 202.309.0934  
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

**To:** Ford, Hayley[ford.hayley@epa.gov]  
**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Tue 9/26/2017 7:54:54 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Fall Media

Did any of these get scheduled? Just checking. Thank you Hayley!

**TBD (mid-October or November):** Print Interview with NTK Network / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / Rosslyn, Virginia

**TBD (October, November or December):** Print Interview with the Washington Free Beacon

**TBD (October, November or December):** Radio Interview with Resurgent's Gabriella Hoffman

**From:** Ford, Hayley  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:15 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Fall Media

Hugh is not scheduled for 10/18. Let me know if I should put on the calendar.

## **Hayley Ford**

Deputy White House Liaison

Office of the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

Room: 3309C William Jefferson Clinton North

[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)

Phone: 202-564-2022

Cell: 202-306-1296



**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:09 AM  
**To:** Ford, Hayley <[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>; Ferguson, Lincoln <[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov](mailto:ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)>; Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>; Hupp, Millan <[hupp.millan@epa.gov](mailto:hupp.millan@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fall Media

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**From:** Ford, Hayley  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:04 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>; Ferguson, Lincoln <[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov](mailto:ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)>; Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>; Hupp, Millan <[hupp.millan@epa.gov](mailto:hupp.millan@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fall Media

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Thanks!

**Hayley Ford**

Deputy White House Liaison

Office of the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

Room: 3309C William Jefferson Clinton North

[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)

Phone: 202-564-2022

Cell: 202-306-1296

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2017 3:40 PM

**To:** Ford, Hayley <[ford.hayley@epa.gov](mailto:ford.hayley@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>; Ferguson, Lincoln <[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov](mailto:ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)>; Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Fall Media

Below is our Fall Media To-Do-List.

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

### Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

#### Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

This list has been approved by Liz.

#### THE FALL MEDIA TO-DO LIST

**October 11, 2017:** Wall Street Journal / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA

**October 17, 18, 19 or 20, 2017:** Time Magazine with Justin Worland / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA

**October 18, 2017:** Hugh Hewitt MSNBC / 30 Minutes / EPA (Believe this is already scheduled)

**October 24, 2017:** Bloomberg / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA

**October 25, 2017:** Breitbart / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA

**October 31, 2017:** Washington Examiner with Paul Bedard / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record)) / EPA

**November 1, 2017:** Washington Post's Daily 202 Breakfast / 60 Minutes (40 On-The-Record) / The Washington Post; 1301 K Street NW

**November 8, 2017:** Reuters / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / EPA

**TBD (prefer October):** Oklahoman in Oklahoma City

**TBD (prefer October):** Tulsa World in Tulsa

**TBD (mid-October or November):** Print Interview with NTK Network / 30 Minutes (15 On-The-Record) / Rosslyn, Virginia

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**TBD (October, November or December):** Print Interview with the Washington Free Beacon

**TBD (November or December):** CBS News' The Takeout With Major Garrett

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#### **Time Magazine's Profile With Justin Worland**

**WHAT:** Profile story in Time Magazine

**WHY:** Time Magazine is doing a profile on Scott Pruitt with or without our participation. We have decided to do this interview, but have also requested that it be a podcast as well, so that all of the audio is available from the interview.

#### **The Washington Post's Daily 202 Breakfast With James Hohmann & Juliet Eilperin**

**WHAT:** "The format would be a 40-minute, onstage interview with James at The Washington Post's HQ in D.C. The interview will be entirely conversational, no need for any prepared statements or opening remarks. We would anticipate a live audience of approximately 200 attendees, including senior staff from Congress and the administration, policy experts, business executives and academics. In addition to the in-room audience, we'll also live stream and post video of the conversation across The Washington Post and its digital platforms, including Facebook Live, which regularly draw well-over 100k live viewers."

**WHY:** The Daily 202 is the most-read newsletter in the country. This platform will provide over 100,000 live viewers. Pruitt has a really good relationship with Juliet Eilperin and James Hohmann is a very fair reporter.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:** This interview will be at the Washington Post before 200 invited guests. There will be security, along with plain clothes security and invited guests must show identification to enter the event.

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●□□□□□□□□ “[Matt Rhoades] is an expert at manipulating the news cycle with a coveted connection to the elusive media power broker Matt Drudge.”

●□□□□□□□□ “In 2008 (and 2012) that was how Mitt Romney was stronger than many people gave him credit for. (That coverage was attributed in no small part to Drudge's close working relationship with Romney campaign manager Matt Rhoades.)”

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---

Jahan Wilcox  
EPA  
Strategic Communications Advisor  
Work Cell: 202.309.0934  
Work Email: [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)

**To:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]  
**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Tue 11/14/2017 1:25:42 PM  
**Subject:** RE: [Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process ?]

Good guy.

**From:** Bowman, Liz  
**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2017 5:56 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** [Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process ?]

Do y'all know him? He is at Freedom partners now and used to be at RNC – I just got his resume for the deputy job.

Liz Bowman

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Office: 202-564-3293

**To:** Lyons, Troy[lyons.troy@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Aarons, Kyle[Aarons.Kyle@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**From:** Ringel, Aaron  
**Sent:** Fri 12/15/2017 8:45:25 PM  
**Subject:** FW: EPA contract documentation request

Troy, see below request from T&I Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment  
Minority staff.

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Looping in OPA for situational awareness as well.

-Aaron

**From:** Seiger, Ryan [mailto:Ryan.Seiger@mail.house.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2017 3:35 PM  
**To:** Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Brain, Michael <Michael.Brain@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** EPA contract documentation request

Aaron:

We're tracking this story about the News Clippings contract with Definers Public Affairs  
(<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/12/15/stories/1060069191>).

The greenwire story from this afternoon says...

Grantham added, "When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on FedConnect or FedBizOps so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work.

"In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers," she said.

Definers' contract with EPA is its first with the federal government. Pounder said the firm is looking into work with other agencies to provide clipping services.



"We have been approached by a number of federal public affairs officials who are displeased with their high-dollar clip services," Pounder said. "Today's news cycle demands more than one clipping package delivered once a day."

What we need is a copy/link to the initial solicitation for this contract – either on FedBizOps or FedConnect – wherever it was publicly posted for solicitation.

I am also seeking some clarification on what the EPA spokesperson (Grantham) meant by saying that “one additional vendor responded...”. That statement seems to imply that Definers was not the only company that responded to the solicitation. Was the other company Bulletin Intelligence, LLC, which we believe held this contract just prior to Definers? Where there other responding companies to the solicitation, and if so, can you name them?

We may have further questions on this as we learn more about what happened here.

Thanks in advance.

Ryan C. Seiger

Staff Director/Senior Counsel

Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

505 Ford House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-0060

**To:** Lyons, Troy[lyons.troy@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Palich, Christian[palich.christian@epa.gov]; Ringel, Aaron[ringel.aaron@epa.gov]; Frye, Tony (Robert)[frye.robert@epa.gov]  
**From:** Shimmin, Kaitlyn  
**Sent:** Tue 10/10/2017 9:38:01 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Clips for YouTube

Adding Tony as well.

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

**Kaitlyn Shimmin**

*Special Assistant Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs*

*Office of the Administrator*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20460

O: (202) 564-4108

C: (202) 760-0546

[Shimmin.Kaitlyn@epa.gov](mailto:Shimmin.Kaitlyn@epa.gov)

**From:** Lyons, Troy

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 5:37 PM

**To:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Shimmin, Kaitlyn <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Clips for YouTube

Here is the archived webcast of the hearing:

<https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=37CC8314-16F1-4D4F-9A26-297EF3D8E49D>

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**From:** Bowman, Liz

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 5:34 PM

**To:** Abboud, Michael <[abboud.michael@epa.gov](mailto:abboud.michael@epa.gov)>; Hewitt, James <[hewitt.james@epa.gov](mailto:hewitt.james@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>; Lyons, Troy <[lyons.troy@epa.gov](mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov)>; Shimmin, Kaitlyn <[shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov](mailto:shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov)>; Palich, Christian <[palich.christian@epa.gov](mailto:palich.christian@epa.gov)>; Ringel, Aaron <[ringel.aaron@epa.gov](mailto:ringel.aaron@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Clips for YouTube

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Liz Bowman

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Office: 202-564-3293

**To:** Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Lyons, Troy[lyons.troy@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Ringel, Aaron  
**Sent:** Thur 2/8/2018 12:32:20 AM  
**Subject:** Re: E&C Pallone QFR on Definers Contract

Thanks, we'll stick with the existing response then.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 7, 2018, at 7:25 PM, Grantham, Nancy <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)> wrote:

All – see below from ogc/foia – documents have not been released under foia. That said, I have no issue with them being released if that is the ocir decision. Thanks ng

## **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

-

**Nancy Grantham**

**Office of Public Affairs**

**US Environmental Protection Agency**

**202-564-6879 (desk)**

**202-253-7056 (mobile)**

**From:** Bowman, Liz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 07, 2018 10:44 AM  
**To:** Ringel, Aaron <[ringel.aaron@epa.gov](mailto:ringel.aaron@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Lyons, Troy <[lyons.troy@epa.gov](mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov)>; Grantham, Nancy <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)>; Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: E&C Pallone QFR on Definers Contract

Fine with me, but looping in Nancy and Jahan to confirm.

**From:** Ringel, Aaron  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2018 10:39 AM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Lyons, Troy <[lyons.troy@epa.gov](mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** E&C Pallone QFR on Definers Contract

Liz/Troy,

Ranking Member Pallone asked for a copy of the contract with Definers along with the scope of work in his questions for the record after the Administrators 12/7 hearing (question/response below). Have we provided this elsewhere or has it been released as part of a FOIA possibly?

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

## **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Thoughts?

33. PALLONE: Please provide a copy of the contract between EPA and Definers Corp. including any statement of work.

## **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

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**Aaron E. Ringel**

*Deputy Associate Administrator*

*Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations*

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

W: 202.564.4373

[Ringel.Aaron@epa.gov](mailto:Ringel.Aaron@epa.gov)

**To:** Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]  
**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Fri 12/15/2017 6:41:43 PM  
**Subject:** DEFINERS ...

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** 'Lisa Friedman' <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Follow up question on MJ story

**“When the government seeks to sole-source a contract, notice must be placed on Fedconnect or Fedbizops so other vendors have an opportunity to provide documentation of their ability to provide the services outlined in the contract scope of work. In this case, one additional vendor responded with their qualifications and the media/news clips contract was awarded to Definers.” - EPA spokeswoman, Nancy Grantham**

**From:** Lisa Friedman [mailto:[lisa.friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2017 10:21 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Follow up question on MJ story

And why was this a no-bid contract when other companies perform the same service?

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, The New York Times

202-862-0306 office

202-251-2083 cell

[Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com)

Twitter: @LFFriedman

On Dec 15, 2017, at 10:20 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)> wrote:

**“The Definers contract is for media monitoring/news clip compilation. The contract award was handled through the EPA Office of Acquisition Management and was \$87,000 cheaper than our previous media monitoring vendor while offering 24-7 news alerts once a story goes public.” – EPA spokesperson Nancy Grantham**

**From:** Lisa Friedman [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2017 10:15 AM

**To:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Follow up question on MJ story

Hello,

Can you please provide a comment about why the news compilation that Definers has been hired to do can not be performed in house?

Secondly - were there any issues with Bulletin that caused EPA to switch providers for this service?

Third, as there are clearly other companies that perform this work – – like the one EPA had previously contracted with – – can you please provide an explanation of why this was a no-bid contract.

Thank you,

Lisa



Lisa Friedman

Reporter, The New York Times

202-862-0306 office

202-251-2083 cell

[Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com](mailto:Lisa.Friedman@nytimes.com)

Twitter: @LFFriedman

**To:** Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Bowman, Liz  
**Sent:** Thur 3/8/2018 7:00:50 PM  
**Subject:** FW: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Year in Review (embargo copy)  
DRAFT FORMATTED Year in Review 3.2.18 Unsigned Letter.pdf  
ATT00001.htm

**From:** Bowman, Liz  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 3, 2018 1:53 PM  
**To:** Jim Myers { **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy** }  
**Cc:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Year in Review (embargo copy)

Hi Jim - It was nice to meet you at Administrator Pruitt's hearing. We would love to get you in to sit down with the administrator in the next week or so to talk about some upcoming announcements. In the meantime, I want to provide you an advance copy of our "year one summary."

This includes highlights of all the work Administrator Pruitt has spearheaded at EPA. We plan to release this to the public on Monday, but wanted to give you an early copy - we just ask that you keep it embargoed until 11am Eastern on Monday.

Can you please let me know if you have questions and if you think you will write?

I can be reached at 202-309-3416.

Thank you for your consideration, Liz Bowman

## Registration Details for Complete Record

**Entity Name: DEFINERS CORP**

**DUNS Number:**

**CAGE:**

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

**Address:**

1500 WILSON BLVD # 5

ARLINGTON, VA 22209-2458

UNITED STATES

**Purpose of Registration:** All Awards

**Registration Status:** Active

**Expiration Date:** 08/31/2018

**Address Update Required:** No

**UPDATE ENTITY**

**VIEW**

**DEACTIVATE**

**To:** Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher[beach.christopher@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Block, Molly[block.molly@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James[hewitt.james@epa.gov]  
**From:** Bowman, Liz  
**Sent:** Thur 2/8/2018 10:00:42 PM  
**Subject:** Re: APPROVAL: SF Chronicle

## **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 8, 2018, at 4:58 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)> wrote:

They are doing a big piece about employee morale. Below are suggested response and then I will take this to Ryan.

## **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

The folks I've talked to say morale is as low as it has ever been at Region 9 and that many long time employees have been taking early retirement, buyouts or quitting as a result, mostly, in response to what they say is a de-emphasis on science and environmental protection, the core work of the EPA.

## **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Three former employees and another current one say the office is short staffed, that Superfund sites have been prioritized, with some now on the back burner, and that the words "climate change" were scrubbed from contracts and grants, a form of censorship.

## **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Another complaint is that industry and business metrics have been brought in to change the culture of the office and downsize and streamline environmental regulation.

## **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Many have told me off the record that they are scared to say anything and generally speak with each other in winks and whispers or out of the office because they fear being exposed by the consulting firm Definers Public Affairs, which they say has spent the past year investigating agency employees critical of the Trump administration and Pruitt. Is this true?

## **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Many are also critical of the fact that the two people considered for the administrator job both worked in the oil, gas or mining industry. Can you confirm that Ryan Flynn and Chris Paul were considered for the position. How is the search for a new administrator going and what are you looking for in the leader?

## **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Jahan Wilcox  
EPA  
Strategic Communications Advisor  
Work Cell: 202.309.0934  
Work Email: [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)

**To:** Greaves, Holly[greaves.holly@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Bowman, Liz  
**Sent:** Fri 2/9/2018 7:11:36 PM  
**Subject:** RE: APPROVAL: Holly,

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**From:** Greaves, Holly  
**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2018 1:13 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: APPROVAL: Holly,

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2018 1:09 PM  
**To:** Greaves, Holly <greaves.holly@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** APPROVAL: Holly,

I'm just going to say this:

Also, I'm hearing that Region 9 will be facing a 10 percent personnel reduction by the end of fiscal year 2018, according to goals laid out by the EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Can you confirm this for me?

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**From:** Fimrite, Peter [<mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2018 12:58 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Questions about EPA morale

Are your comments below off the record or can I quote you on any of them? You have them in quotes with your name attached. I would like to quote a couple of those answers. Also, I'm hearing that Region 9 will be facing a 10 percent personnel reduction by the end of fiscal year 2018, according to goals laid out by the EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Can you confirm this for me?

I definitely would like to tell about the actions of Congress rather than leaving the tea leaves of proposals. Can you give me some idea about what the budget passed last night means for the EPA in terms of cuts?

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan [<mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 09, 2018 6:26 AM  
**To:** Fimrite, Peter <[PFimrite@sfchronicle.com](mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com)>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Questions about EPA morale

Peter –

**Off-the-record**, in regards to budget proposals would just remind you that this morning the Senate passed a two-year budget that will fund the government. Rather than leaving the tea leaves of proposals, believe your readers would like to know the action that Congress has taken, which includes passing a budget that again funds the entire government for the next two years.

- **Today, Friday, February 9, 2018, Congress Passed A Budget That Will Fund The Government For The Next Two Years.** “After a temporary lapse in government funding that lasted through the night, Congress passed a pricey two-year spending deal early Friday that will also fund the government for an additional six weeks. The government temporarily closed after Congress failed to pass a government funding bill before a midnight deadline due to the objections of one senator, shutting down non-essential government services. In the end, a bipartisan cohort of lawmakers supported the \$400 billion agreement. Shortly after 1:30 a.m. ET, the Senate voted, 71-28, to approve a two-year spending bill that would reopen the government, and the House passed it at 5:30 a.m. with the support of 240 members. Trump tweeted Wednesday morning that he had signed the bill, officially ending the brief shutdown.” ([NBC News](#), 02/09/18)

Additionally, **below are some on-the-record responses** to your questions. Some of these answers took a while to find and we hope that you will be able to use as much as possible.

Jahan

**From:** Fimrite, Peter [<mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:54 PM

**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Questions about EPA morale

Thanks for getting back to me. Here are some questions and issues I'd like to have addressed:

The folks I've talked to say morale is as low as it has ever been at Region 9 and that many long time employees have been taking early retirement, buyouts or quitting as a result, mostly, in response to what they say is a de-emphasis on science and environmental protection, the core work of the EPA.

- **“From Administrator Pruitt’s focus on cleaning up toxic Superfund sites, his leadership during the government shutdown that kept the agency open and paid every employee, to EPA’s Region 9 where just 11 employees took an early retirement and nearly a quarter of the employees are working despite being eligible to retire, morale is great at EPA.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Three former employees and another current one say the office is short staffed, that Superfund sites have been prioritized, with some now on the back burner, and that the words “climate change” were scrubbed from contracts and grants, a form of censorship.

- **“Administrator Pruitt has placed a renewed focused on cleaning up toxic Superfund sites. We are reviewing every grant and 99.84 percent of all grants have been awarded.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Another complaint is that industry and business metrics have been brought in to change the culture of the office and downsize and streamline environmental regulation.



- **“Administrator Pruitt is proud to streamline regulations, which is creating regulatory certainty.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Many have told me off the record that they are scared to say anything and generally speak with each other in winks and whispers or out of the office because they fear being exposed by the consulting firm Definers Public Affairs, which they say has spent the past year investigating agency employees critical of the Trump administration and Pruitt. Is this true?

- **“No this is not accurate. Like any government agency, all EPA employees are subjected to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and in terms of the FOIAs nearly all are aimed at political, not career employees.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

Many are also critical of the fact that the two people considered for the administrator job both worked in the oil, gas or mining industry. Can you confirm that Ryan Flynn and Chris Paul were considered for the position. How is the search for a new administrator going and what are you looking for in the leader?

- **“We don’t discuss who have been or not been interviewed for the Region 9 Administrator or any other position. The Administration is carefully considering many highly qualified candidates for Region 9 and will announce another great regional administrator soon.”** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan [<mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 07, 2018 12:26 PM  
**To:** Fimrite, Peter <[PFimrite@sfbay.com](mailto:PFimrite@sfbay.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Questions about EPA morale

Call me or send me specific examples and I will do my best to address them.

Jahan Wilcox  
EPA  
Strategic Communications Advisor  
Work Cell: 202.309.0934  
Work Email: [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:20 PM  
**To:** Fimrite, Peter <[PFimrite@sfchronicle.com](mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com)>; Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Questions about EPA morale

Will handle.

**From:** Fimrite, Peter [<mailto:PFimrite@sfchronicle.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2018 2:36 PM  
**To:** Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Questions about EPA morale

I'm working on a story about all the changes occurring at the EPA and the effect it has had on employees in the various regions, particularly region 9. I was hoping for a comment from the administration or a spokesman. Please call me at 415-777-8454.

*Peter Fimrite*

*Staff Writer*

*San Francisco Chronicle*

*Work: 415-777-8454*

*Cell: 415-298-2197*

*Email: [pfimrite@sfchronicle.com](mailto:pfimrite@sfchronicle.com)*

*Twitter: @pfimrite*

**To:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Konkus, John  
**Sent:** Wed 5/24/2017 9:10:34 PM  
**Subject:** RE: REMINDERS  
2017-05-24 EPA Report for WH Comms Planning.docx

Yes. Attached is the report.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bowman, Liz  
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 5:06 PM  
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>  
Cc: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>  
Subject: FW: REMINDERS

Konkus, you sent this right? Can you please make sure to copy us all on the WH report so that we each have final? Amy/John, please be sure to put your information into WAVES. I think the rest of us are out Friday.

-----Original Message-----

From: Dorr, Kaelan K. EOP/WHO [mailto:**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 3:11 PM  
To: Levell, Leah V. EOP/WHO [**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**]; Dorr, Kaelan K. EOP/WHO  
**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**  
Subject: REMINDERS

Cabinet Communicators!

This is a reminder I need everyone's weekly look ahead documents tonight. Additionally, This serves as a reminder for our Friday meeting at 2:00pm here at EEOB Room 350. The link to RSVP and submit WAVES is below. Please reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Best,

KD

<https://events.whitehouse.gov/form?rid=F89V\HW2Y7>

**To:** Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Bowman, Liz  
**Sent:** Mon 2/12/2018 10:37:31 PM  
**Subject:** Re: APPROVAL: SF Chron / Employee Morale

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 12, 2018, at 5:33 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)> wrote:

**From:** Jackson, Ryan  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 8, 2018 7:04 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>; Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>;  
Ferguson, Lincoln <[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov](mailto:ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: APPROVAL: SF Chron / Employee Morale

Thank you.

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 8, 2018 5:18 PM  
**To:** Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>; Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>;  
Ferguson, Lincoln <[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov](mailto:ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** APPROVAL: SF Chron / Employee Morale

Ryan –

The San Francisco Chronicle is doing a story on employee morale and why we don't have a regional head, etc.

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

The folks I've talked to say morale is as low as it has ever been at Region 9 and that many long time employees have been taking early retirement, buyouts or quitting as a result, mostly, in response to what they say is a de-emphasis on science and environmental protection, the core work of the EPA.

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Many are also critical of the fact that the two people considered for the administrator job both worked in the oil, gas or mining industry. Can you confirm that Ryan Flynn and Chris Paul were considered for the position. How is the search for a new administrator going and what are you looking for in the leader?

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

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**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Another complaint is that industry and business metrics have been brought in to change the culture of the office and downsize and streamline environmental regulation.

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Many have told me off the record that they are scared to say anything and generally speak with each other in winks and whispers or out of the office because they fear being exposed by the consulting firm Definers Public Affairs, which they say has spent the past year

investigating agency employees critical of the Trump administration and Pruitt. Is this true?

## **Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Jahan Wilcox  
EPA  
Strategic Communications Advisor  
Work Cell: 202.309.0934  
Work Email: [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)

**To:** Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]  
**From:** Graham, Amy  
**Sent:** Thur 5/25/2017 3:30:01 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Updated Proposal...

This would be really helpful with tracking TV and radio clips especially. If we don't go with this – we need to get TV Eyes.

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2017 11:29 AM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Updated Proposal...

Also was going to submit this too but Definers Public Affairs can/should run our war-room clips (see attachment and proposal).

Alerting clips, transcripts in live time is a full-time job and because of the 24-7 news cycle it's not a one person job either.

I believe their sister company AR did this for SP during his confirmation.

I was waiting for JP to be done before bringing this proposal to the group.

I've always been working with Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy who is being as difficult as possible - in revamping our our paper product goes out and to who it goes to. This project should've been finished two weeks ago as Nancy has been helpful.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Joe Pounder <jpounder@definerscorp.com>  
**Date:** May 22, 2017 at 4:26:28 PM CDT  
**To:** [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)  
**Subject:** Updated Proposal...



Mr. Wilcox,

Please find attached an updated proposal with examples of actual alerts and daily matrix. Please let us know if you have any other questions. Our plan is when it is rolled out to clients, these alerts will be compiled into our Definers Console where they will be also stored and searchable in addition to emailed directly to inboxes. Thanks again.

--

Joe Pounder

[jpounder@definerscorp.com](mailto:jpounder@definerscorp.com)

571-290-5460

**To:** Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]  
**From:** Bowman, Liz  
**Sent:** Thur 5/25/2017 9:47:53 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Updated Proposal...

Lets talk about this on Tuesday.

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2017 11:29 AM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Updated Proposal...

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**From:** Joe Pounder <jpounder@definerscorp.com>  
**Date:** May 22, 2017 at 4:26:28 PM CDT  
**To:** wilcox.jahan@epa.gov  
**Subject:** Updated Proposal...

Mr. Wilcox,

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--

Joe Pounder

[jpounder@definerscorp.com](mailto:jpounder@definerscorp.com)  
571-290-5460

**To:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]  
**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Wed 6/21/2017 9:24:01 PM  
**Subject:** We should bring in Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy  
Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy [Resume.pdf](#)

Jahan Wilcox  
EPA  
Strategic Communications Advisor  
Work Cell: 202.309.0934  
Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

**To:** Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Abboud, Michael  
**Sent:** Thur 9/21/2017 3:33:01 PM  
**Subject:** RE: APPROVAL: LA Times questions -- civil service

Joel's name is misspelled.

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:31 AM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Lyons, Troy <lyons.troy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** APPROVAL: LA Times questions -- civil service

Feel free to add RJ to this if we think we need to run this past him.

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**Background Without Attribution – As Everything Below Is In The Public Domain**

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**According to career EPA employee Joel Scheraga, he has a great working relationship with EPA employees.** “Staff from the EPA’s disbanded climate adaptation office are still doing the same work despite moving to different offices a few months ago, the head of the team told POLITICO. An EPA reorganization finalized last week revealed that the agency followed through with a plan set in in the spring to reassign four climate change adaptation employees to two different sections of the Office of Policy, which is run by Samantha Dravis, a longtime political strategist and top aide to Administrator Scott Pruitt. ‘Unequivocally, the Office of Policy continues to support work on climate adaptation,’ said Joel Scheraga, a veteran EPA employee and the agency’s senior adviser for climate adaptation. ‘Samantha Dravis has asked me to continue working on climate adaptation issues. The bottom line is that climate adaptation work continues.’ ... Scheraga said the agency wants to help make sure that as communities “invest literally billions of dollars in new [water] systems that they in fact are better prepared for these extreme weather events so that they don’t overflow so that they don’t spill raw sewage into our lakes and streams,” for example. ‘We work with the communities to provide them with the information and the tools that they have told us they need to address their needs,’ Scheraga said. ‘They have told us they need to deal

with these more intense precipitation events, these storm surges, so that in fact they can continue to protect public health and the environment, again consistent with EPA's mission to ensure that they continue to protect water quality and can provide safe drinking water.' ([Politico Pro](#), 09/11/17)

**Michael Cox said his retirement was planned before Administrator Pruitt was nominated and confirmed by the Senate.** "Cox said his own retirement had been long planned even before Trump's election, and that he's not aware of any big exodus of EPA staff from the Seattle office." ([Seattle Times](#), 04/12/17)

**In an email to an EPA colleague, Betsy Southland said she retired because she found out that she needed to help out with family medical care.** "Maybe you did not receive my email about my retirement, but I sent it to you in June as soon as I found out I needed to retire to help out with family medical care." ([NTK Network](#), Email Obtained By FOIA, 07/26/17)

**Betsy Southerland questioned Pruitt's decision to partner with states to protect the environment.** "Southerland questioned Pruitt's belief that the EPA and federal environmental standards were guilty of 'running roughshod over states' rights.'" ([The Huffington Post](#), 08/02/17)

**Governor Dayton (DFL-MN) praised Administrator Pruitt for working with the states and even said he didn't want the regional EPA offices micromanaging his state.** "Gov. Mark Dayton described a meeting Wednesday with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt as 'productive and cordial' and said he's hopeful the Trump administration will eliminate some of the federal government red tape dealt to state agencies. 'We don't believe we need to be micromanaged by Region 5 in Chicago,' Dayton said during a news conference following a meeting at the Capitol that lasted more than an hour." ([Minnesota Public Radio](#), 07/19/17)

**According to McClatchy, Congress will move forward with their own budget.** "Trump's fellow Republicans control both chambers of Congress, but even so lawmakers are expected to move forward with their own budget blueprint this spring, as they traditionally have done." ([McClatchy](#), 03/16/17)

**The White House's Budget no matter who is in power has become increasingly irrelevant as Congress has the power of the purse.** "First, no matter who has been in the White House in recent years the president's budget has become increasingly irrelevant to what, if anything, gets done. This is not Obama-dependent: it has been happening over the past few decades." ([Forbes](#), 02/01/16)

**In 2015, President Obama's budget received 1 vote.** "President Obama's budget suffered its latest ignominious defeat when the Senate rejected it on a 98-1 vote Tuesday evening, capping off the first votes of the budget season." ([The Washington Times](#), 03/24/15)

**In 2012, not a single person in the Senate or the House voted for President Obama's budget.** "President Obama's budget suffered a second embarrassing defeat Wednesday, when senators voted 99-0 to reject it. Coupled with the House's rejection in March, 414-0, that means Mr. Obama's budget has failed to win a single vote in support this year." ([The Washington Times](#), 05/16/12)

**Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said that he expects Congress to ignore the budget.** "Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell has already said he expects the Republican-led Congress to largely ignore the proposal, saying in an interview last week with Bloomberg News that early versions reflected priorities that "aren't necessarily ours." ([Bloomberg](#), 05/22/17)

**In 2016, Elizabeth Southerland made \$249,000.**  
(<https://www.federalpay.org/employees/environmental-protection-agency/southerland-elizabeth>, Accessed 07/31/17)

**In 2015, Elizabeth Southerland made \$183,300.**  
(<https://www.federalpay.org/employees/environmental-protection-agency/southerland-elizabeth>, Accessed 07/31/17)

**In 2014, Elizabeth Southerland made \$181,500.**  
(<https://www.federalpay.org/employees/environmental-protection-agency/southerland-elizabeth>, Accessed 07/31/17)

**In 2013, Elizabeth Southerland made \$179,700.**  
(<https://www.federalpay.org/employees/environmental-protection-agency/southerland-elizabeth>, Accessed 07/31/17)

**In 2012, Elizabeth Southerland made \$179,700.**  
(<https://www.federalpay.org/employees/environmental-protection-agency/southerland-elizabeth>, Accessed 07/31/17)

**In 2011, Elizabeth Southerland made \$215,640.**  
(<https://www.federalpay.org/employees/environmental-protection-agency/southerland-elizabeth>, Accessed 07/31/17)

**From:** Halper, Evan [<mailto:Evan.Halper@latimes.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:35 AM  
**To:** Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** LA Times questions -- civil service

Good morning:

I am reaching out for comment from the agency for a story about the civil service under the Trump administration. Does the EPA have a response to the concerns raised by recently departed employees such as Betsy Southerland and Michael Cox – and echoed by advocacy groups and lawmakers -- that it is sidelining its own scientific research and scientists in pursuit of the Trump political agenda? Has its approach to taking input from career staff changed with this administration?

You can reach me at 916.201.6398 if you would prefer to discuss in an interview. My deadline is 3:30 p.m. today. Thanks very much for your attention to this.

Best,

Evan Halper

National Reporter

Los Angeles Times



**To:** Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov];  
**From:** Abboud, Michael  
**Sent:** Fri 10/13/2017 3:54:18 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Follow up to our meeting

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Resume.pdf

**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

Kritstin – I want to introduce you to my colleague Jahan. He's a great guy to know in DC! Maybe you two could get together for coffee or drinks sometime soon.

**From:** Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy  
**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2017 9:35 AM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy  
**Subject:** Follow up to our meeting

Michael,

It was nice meeting you last night at Capital Grille; wish the Nats could have pulled out a win though! I attached my resume and would appreciate you passing it along.

Thanks,

--

**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

**To:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]  
**From:** Hewitt, James  
**Sent:** Mon 11/13/2017 11:21:37 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

I do not know him.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 13, 2017, at 5:55 PM, Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)> wrote:

Do y'all know him? He is at Freedom partners now and used to be at RNC – I just got his resume for the deputy job.

Liz Bowman

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Office: 202-564-3293

**To:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Dorr, Kaelan K. EOP/WHO[Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]  
**From:** Rateike, Bradley A. EOP/WHO  
**Sent:** Fri 7/14/2017 5:24:03 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Mother Jones: Scott Pruitt Desperately Wants to Be Loved

FYI...

**From:** Comms Alert [mailto:CommsAlert@gop.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 12:42 PM  
**Subject:** Mother Jones: Scott Pruitt Desperately Wants to Be Loved

### **Scott Pruitt Desperately Wants to Be Loved**

*He's created a media echo chamber.*

Mother Jones

Rebecca Leber

July 14, 2017 – 6:00 AM

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2017/07/scott-pruitt-desperately-wants-to-be-loved/>

Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt did something out of character this week: He gave a wide-ranging interview to a few mainstream media outlets in which he discussed a number of policy issues he's largely avoided talking about publicly since taking over the EPA.

The interviews were unusual not just because of the subjects he covered, but because of the venues, Politico and Reuters. Since taking office, Pruitt has almost exclusively relied on a small number of conservative media outlets to tell an upbeat version of his leadership at the EPA, with occasional detours into the Sunday news shows. He's granted interviews to conservative writers at the Wall Street Journal, Breitbart News, The Federalist, and Murdoch-owned New York Post. He's taken to the airwaves to chat with conservative hosts on CNBC and Fox News, as well as MSNBC's Morning Joe. On a few occasions, Pruitt has done his version of town halls, taking questions from members of business groups like the Oklahoma's State Chamber of Commerce—a

familiar venue, since he was once the state's attorney general—and conservative audiences at the Conservative Political Action Conference, Heritage Foundation, and the Federalist Society.

The EPA's public affairs staff now focus on promoting mostly right-wing outlets, some with ties to the Trump administration, on the EPA's social-media feeds and in news releases. The result? An echo chamber cheerleading the EPA's regulatory rollbacks, Trump's withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement, and its newfound anti-science denial.

Liz Purchia, a Obama-era EPA communications staffer, says the EPA's attention to right-wing audiences resembles Trump's tactics at the White House. "They're tightly controlling [Pruitt's] public events and interviews, which isolates him from most Americans and instead plays to Trump's base," Purchia said in an email. "They're not trying to use communications tactics to reach a broad audience."

Anyone who's been paying attention to the news would see that the EPA would have a lot of information to share. It has begun to reverse a number of air, climate, water, and chemical regulations put forward during the Obama administration. In the last few weeks, Pruitt has delayed a methane regulation for oil and gas, a rule to prevent accidents at refineries and hazardous facilities, stricter standards for the air pollutant ozone, and a water rule that would have expanded clean water protections to streams. At the same time, Pruitt has refused to renew dozens of scientists' positions on the EPA's science advisory boards and wants to set up a new kind of task force to undermine climate science.

The disconnect is between EPA messaging and certain realities. From the way Pruitt and Trump administration staff have been telling it, the EPA is doing amazing things, as can be seen in a press release from the agency in mid-May that recapped "all of the good news from an EPA that is protecting the environment and American jobs." Pruitt's interviews and EPA press releases depict an agency that not only pleases industry and Republican "stakeholders," but also delivers cleaner water, smarter science, and higher air quality. The almost universally denounced US pullout from the Paris climate agreement "was received well" by allies at the G7 environmental summit earlier this month, Pruitt reported to Trump at a Cabinet meeting.

One space that has served as a reliable Pruitt echo chamber has been on Hugh Hewitt's radio show. Hewitt, a conservative radio host who contributes to the Washington Post and now for MSNBC, is a sympathetic interviewer. In one program he asked whether the "hyperpartisan" coverage of the EPA has been "wearying"—Pruitt replied that negative coverage is Barack Obama's fault. "I know you are not a climate denier," Hewitt added, "I know you very well." Hewitt didn't explain how, but he might have a special insight into the inner workings of the EPA since his son, James, is a Trump appointee as an EPA special adviser for public affairs—a connection the talk show host disclosed in a recent Washington Post column praising the administrator for becoming a "domestic policy star."

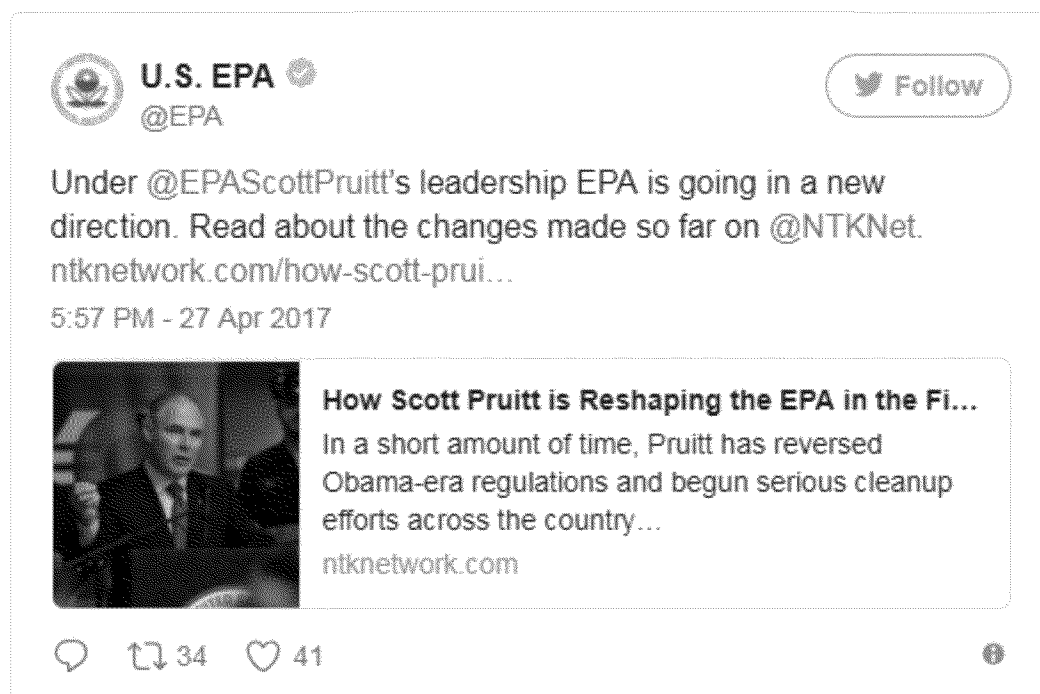
In that interview, which came the morning after the Paris decision, Hewitt asked Pruitt if his critics on the New York Times editorial board "have any agenda of persuasive engagement on genuine environmental progress with economic growth?" Pruitt expanded on Hewitt's point, going on to complain that his critics are "climate exaggerators" interested only in partisan political rhetoric.

Besides seeking out friendly interviews, Pruitt repeatedly cites friendly columnists to validate some of his most controversial actions. In a July interview with Reuters, he credits a Wall Street Journal op-ed written by Steve Koonin, a theoretical physicist who worked in Obama's Department of Energy, and Bret Stephens, a conservative New York Times columnist who dismisses some impacts of climate change, as the evidence of the legitimacy of his positions. He may even have wanted more support from them. In early June, Stephens said Pruitt "dragged me into" his press conference on the Paris decision. "I'm supposed to comment on the news, not be the news, so I tried to ignore it," Stephens wrote. "But I guess it's unignorable."

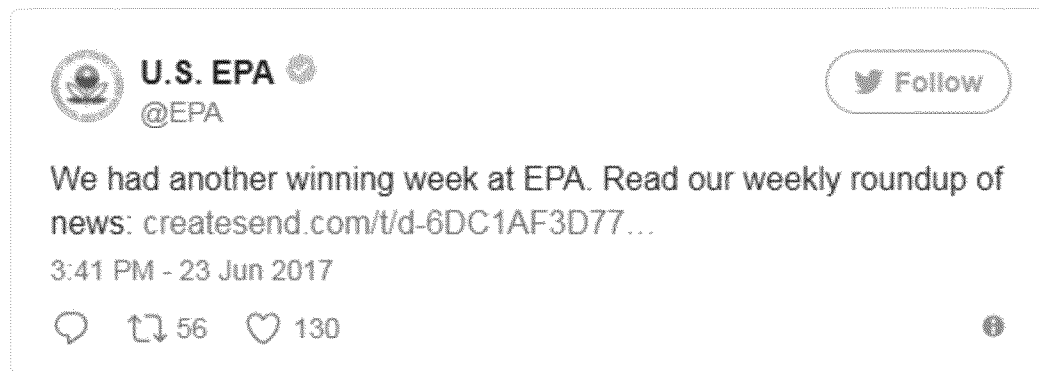
White House strategist Steve Bannon's former business, Breitbart News, has also been a reliable megaphone for Pruitt's EPA, despite a critical column it ran a few months ago about what the writer saw as Pruitt's reluctance to dismantle the EPA's climate change work. Since then, Breitbart and Pruitt appear to have made up. As Breitbart gloated, it was the first media outlet where Pruitt floated his controversial proposal to form so-called a red-blue team exercise for a "transparent discussion about CO2."

Pruitt has also given relatively obscure conservative websites a higher profile because of their favorable coverage of him. Consider the little-known conservative aggregation website called Need to Know Network (NTK), started by political operatives who are connected to America Rising. According to Politico, NTK was started by Joe Pounder, who co-founded America Rising. An arm of America Rising, America Rising Squared,

ran ads and a web-site sup-port-ing Pruitt before his confirmation hearings. In Facebook and Twitter posts and at least one news roundup, the EPA has repeatedly showcased NTK's promotional spin:



Pruitt promised to “listen” as EPA administrator, but his media strategy appears to concentrate more on listening to the base and talking about his widespread support. For Pruitt, this might be the point. On its website, the EPA describes its mission “to protect human health and the environment.” But Pruitt’s goal is not protection—it’s “winning.” Winning exactly what is not clear, but the EPA is on message.



**To:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**From:** White, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Mon 2/26/2018 10:09:30 PM  
**Subject:** FOIA Backlog - Closed  
[Backlog list.xlsx](#)

Liz and Jahan – per Ryan’s text this morning, attached is a spreadsheet that shows the backlog FOIA’s that have been closed – they’re shaded red.

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

# Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

**Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process**

Let

me know if you have any questions.

**Beth White**

Director, Office of the Executive Secretariat

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(202) 564-1781 direct

(202) 816-1701 cell



**To:** Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]; Graham, Amy[graham.amy@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Dorr, Kaelan K.  
**EOP/WHO** Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy  
**From:** Rateike, Bradley A. EOP/WHO  
**Sent:** Mon 7/24/2017 12:20:40 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Politico Playbook 7/24/17

Adding the rest of the EPA team. Please send us the talking points on this.

**From:** Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO  
**Sent:** Monday, July 24, 2017 7:24 AM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Dorr, Kaelan K. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy >; Rateike, Bradley A. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Love, Kelly A. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Ditto, Jessica E. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Kennedy, Adam R. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy >  
**Subject:** FW: Politico Playbook 7/24/17

Liz, you have any talkers/response on this?

**From:** Hemming, Andrew J. EOP/WHO  
**Sent:** Monday, July 24, 2017 7:22 AM  
**To:** Boza-Holman, Sofia M. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Cheung, Steven EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Ditto, Jessica E. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Dorr, Kaelan K. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Ferre, Helen A. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Fetalvo, Ninio J. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Grisham, Stephanie A. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Henning, Alexa A. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Hulse, Elliott Y. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Kennedy, Adam R. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Love, Kelly A. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Parkinson, Andrew Z. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Rateike, Bradley A. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Ross, Tyler E. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Sadler, Kelly J. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Sanders, Sarah H. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Shoemaker, Clay M. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Short, Michael C. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Sims, Cliff D. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy > Strom, Natalie M. EOP/WHO < Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy >

**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

Walters, Lindsay E. EOP/WHO

**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

**Subject:** FW: Politico Playbook 7/24/17

This stat may get some play:

**NYT'S LISA FRIEDMAN:** "Scott Pruitt, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, traveled to his home state, Oklahoma, 10 times over three months this year, largely at taxpayer expense, according to a report released Monday.

**"The findings from the Environmental Integrity Project**, a nonprofit group founded by former E.P.A. officials, are drawn from Mr. Pruitt's calendar and the travel expenses he has submitted for reimbursement. Obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, the documents show Mr. Pruitt spent 43 out of 92 days from March through May in Oklahoma or traveling to or from the state." <http://nyti.ms/2uP4Vvn>

**From:** RNC War Room [mailto:Warroom@gop.com]

**Sent:** Monday, July 24, 2017 7:03 AM

**Subject:** Politico Playbook 7/24/17

**WHAT JARED TOLD INTEL COMMITTEES -- Senate Dems launch 'A Better Deal' agenda -- GROWING CONSENSUS: GOP in disrepair -- PRIEBUS 'sidelined' -- 'WAR' in White House on Afghanistan options -- JOE AND MIKA on NYMAG cover**

Politico Playbook

Jake Sherman, Anna Palmer & Daniel Lippman

July 24, 2017 – 6:45 AM

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/playbook/2017/07/24/what-jared-told-intel-committees-senate-dems-launch-a-better-deal-agenda-growing-consensus-gop-in-disrepair-priebus-sidelined-war-in-white-house-on-afghanistan-options-joe-and-mika-on-nymag-cover-221475>

**Good Monday morning. BREAKING AT 6 A.M. -- WHAT JARED KUSHNER IS SUBMITTING TO HILL INTELLIGENCE PANELS -- 4 CONTACTS WITH RUSSIANS -- ANNIE KARNI**, “Kushner defends himself ahead of Senate intel meeting: ‘I did not collude’”: “In pre-written testimony Jared Kushner plans to submit before the Senate Intelligence Committee on Monday -- a high-stakes, closed-door grilling session that is part of the investigation into possible collusion between Russian officials and the Trump campaign -- the powerful son-in-law will try to explain away his four contacts with Russian officials during the general election and the transition as innocent interactions. In an 11-page opening statement provided to reporters early Monday morning ahead of his 10 a.m. appointment with the Senate, Kushner attempts to exonerate himself, writing: ‘I did not collude, nor know of anyone else in the campaign who colluded, with any foreign government.’ Instead, Kushner paints a picture of himself as a loyal, overworked, under-experienced senior adviser to his father-in-law during a novice campaign that was never staffed up to win.

**“The former real estate developer** also blames the glaring omissions on his security clearance forms -- which did not originally include several meetings with Russian officials that have since come to light -- on an honest mistake made by his assistant at the time. And like others in the Trump orbit who met with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak before Inauguration Day, Kushner also said he had trouble remembering the official after their first brief, previously unreported encounter at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. ...

**“His second interaction** with a Russian official was the now infamous Donald Trump, Jr. meeting with the Russian lawyer, Natalia Veselnitskaya, that June. Kushner claims he had no idea what he was walking into. An email from his brother-in-law reminds him of the time change to 4 p.m. for the Trump Tower meeting, and Kushner writes that it was not abnormal to pop into each other’s offices for meetings. ‘That email was on top of a long back and forth that I did not read at the time,’ he writes. ‘Documents confirm my memory that this was calendared as ‘Meeting: Don Jr. | Jared Kushner. No one else was mentioned.’ ... ‘I actually emailed an assistant from the meeting after I had been there for ten or so minutes and wrote ‘Can u pls call me on my cell? Need excuse to get out of meeting,’ Kushner writes.” ><http://politi.co/2uYQgxR>< ... **Kushner’s full statement** ><http://politi.co/2uQ62ue><

**--INTERESTING TIDBITS: KUSHNER** says he is “not a person who has sought the spotlight.” ... A Russian banker brought him “a bag of dirt” from Nvgorod, the village in

Belarus where his grandparents are from. ... He got an email from "Guccifer400," who "threatened to reveal candidate Trump's tax returns and demanded that we send him 52 bitcoins in exchange for not publishing that information. I brought the email to the attention of a U.S. Secret Service agent on the plane we were all travelling on and asked what he thought. He advised me to ignore it and not to reply -- which is what I did. The sender never contacted me again."

#### **FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- HERE IS A NEW VIDEO OF SENATE**

**DEMOCRATS** discussing their new agenda, "A Better Deal." ><http://bit.ly/2tT11g7>< They say their agenda is designed to "boost wages, lower costs, and unrig the economy to make it work for all Americans, not special interests or just the wealthiest few." **THE LACK OF A MESSAGE** is one of the major gripes of Hill Democrats.

-- **HEATHER CAYGLE and ELANA SCHOR: "Democrats launch economic agenda ahead of 2018 campaign":** "Democrats are adding pitches aimed at battling corporate overreach to an economic platform that already includes a trillion-dollar infrastructure plan and paid family leave. Party leaders are also proposing a new independent agency to oversee prescription drug prices similar to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau launched by Sen. Elizabeth Warren as well as an independent 'competition advocate' that would police corporate mergers. ...

**"Democrats are launching** the agenda under the slogan 'A Better Deal,' which POLITICO reported earlier this month. It's designed as a nod to Franklin D. Roosevelt's 'New Deal,' which helped usher in the modern-day Democratic Party, and also as a dig at Trump, who bills himself as the world's greatest deal-maker." ><http://politi.co/2vRaciE><

-- **NYT OP-ED: "Chuck Schumer: A Better Deal for American Workers"** ><http://nyti.ms/2uPjSxr><

**KEEP IN MIND** this is the last scheduled week in session for Congress. The Senate has said it will stay into August, but with the health care bill unlikely to pass, it seems likely they could get out of dodge earlier.

-- **CONGRESS** is likely to leave for August recess without passing a budget, spending bills, an infrastructure package, a bill to lift the debt ceiling and tax reform. **52 DAYS** in

session between now and the end of the year.

**TRUMP'S MONDAY -- PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP** is meeting with “victims” of Obamacare, and will speak about the stalled legislation. Trump will then go to Beaver, West Virginia, to speak at the National Scout Jamboree.

**THE GROWING CONSENSUS -- “GOP despairs at inability to deliver,”** by Eliana Johnson and Josh Dawsey: “The Republican Party is more powerful than it’s been in more than a decade — and yet it has never seemed so weak. Continuing chaos in the White House has been punctuated by the failure to deliver on the GOP’s seven-year pledge to overhaul Obamacare, and has many asking whether the party can capitalize on the sweeping victories it has achieved at the federal, state, and local levels. Ahead of this week’s crucial Senate vote on health care, White House aides are already considering how to distance President Donald Trump from Congress and how to go after the Republicans who vote no — an idea the president seems fond of, according to people who have spoken to him. Several people said he plans to keep up the fight, no matter how this week’s vote goes.” <http://politi.co/2vzL0hp>

**-- “Republicans are in full control of government — but losing control of their party,”** by WaPo’s Sean Sullivan and Bob Costa: “Frustrated lawmakers are increasingly sounding off at a White House awash in turmoil and struggling to accomplish its legislative goals. President Trump is scolding Republican senators over health care and even threatening electoral retribution. Congressional leaders are losing the confidence of their rank and file. And some major GOP donors are considering using their wealth to try to force out recalcitrant incumbents. ‘It’s a lot of tribes within one party, with many agendas, trying to do what they want to do,’ Rep. Tom MacArthur (R-N.J.) said in an interview.” <http://wapo.st/2vQOtaJ>

**TARA PALMERI -- “Priebus sidelined as Washington outsiders’ power grows”:** “Reince Priebus took the punishing job of President Donald Trump’s chief of staff with the idea that he would stick it out for at least one year. Six months in, with one of his top allies in the West Wing -- press secretary Sean Spicer -- on his way out, Priebus is in defensive mode, his role diminished and an internal rival hogging the limelight. Trump’s decision to bring Wall Street financier Anthony Scaramucci into the role of communications director shows the rising power of political outsiders and the diminished influence of establishment figures -- which Priebus, the former chairman of the [RNC], epitomizes.

**“One White House official** and two outside advisers said that while Scaramucci was brought into the White House for the communications job, he’s considered an internal candidate to eventually succeed Priebus as chief of staff. There are also a handful of outside candidates. The unexpected hire has raised questions of whether more shake-ups are coming, even as the White House has tried to downplay its internal discord. The instability has made it difficult for the administration to fend off questions about ties between Trump’s 2016 campaign and Russia and to move forward an embattled legislative agenda.

**“Despite frequent reports** his position is in jeopardy, Priebus hopes to finish out his year, according to people close to him. He is eyeing another big hurdle this week of getting the health care bill to pass through the Senate, defenders said Sunday.” ><http://politi.co/2vQJKFN><

**SUSAN PAGE in USA TODAY:** “Just six months after his inauguration, Americans already are split down the middle, 42%-42%, over whether President Trump should be removed from office, a new USA TODAY/iMediaEthics Poll finds.” ><https://usat.ly/2ttWDVq><

**NYT’S LISA FRIEDMAN:** “Scott Pruitt, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, traveled to his home state, Oklahoma, 10 times over three months this year, largely at taxpayer expense, according to a report released Monday.

**“The findings from the Environmental Integrity Project,** a nonprofit group founded by former E.P.A. officials, are drawn from Mr. Pruitt’s calendar and the travel expenses he has submitted for reimbursement. Obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, the documents show Mr. Pruitt spent 43 out of 92 days from March through May in Oklahoma or traveling to or from the state.” ><http://nyti.ms/2uP4Vvn><

**FROM THE PRESIDENT ... : at 4:09 p.m.:** “As the phony Russian Witch Hunt continues, two groups are laughing at this excuse for a lost election taking hold, Democrats and Russians!” ... **at 4:14 p.m.:** “It’s very sad that Republicans, even some that were carried over the line on my back, do very little to protect their President.”

... at 7:57 p.m.: "It's hard to read the Failing New York Times or the Amazon Washington Post because every story/opinion, even if should be positive, is bad!"  
... at 8:01 p.m.: "If Republicans don't Repeal and Replace the disastrous ObamaCare, the repercussions will be far greater than any of them understand!" ... at 8:23 p.m.: "Thank you to @LOUDOBBS for giving the first six months of the Trump Administration an A+. S.C.,reg cutting,Stock M, jobs,border etc. = TRUE!"

**BARAK RAVID in Haaretz, "Trump Envoy Jason Greenblatt to Arrive in Israel on Monday in Bid to De-escalate Temple Mount Crisis":** "A senior official in the Trump administration said that Greenblatt is heading to the region 'to support efforts to reduce tensions in the region.' During his Israel visit, Greenblatt is expected to be in contact with Trump's senior adviser Jared Kushner and keep him updated on the contents of his talks." ><http://bit.ly/2uriUEH><

-- **WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING**, Israel sent an emissary to Jordan after an Israeli security guard killed two people who tried to attack embassy personnel. Israel also closed its embassy and consulates in Turkey due to controversy over stepped up security at the al Aqsa mosque.

**BEHIND THE SCENES -- SUSAN GLASSER: "The Trump White House's War Within":** "Last Monday, President Trump's senior Cabinet officials and top national security advisers met for a contentious meeting to finally agree on a new strategy for America's longest war. After months of wrangling, they would ask Trump for a modest troop increase and a more intense commitment to the seemingly endless struggle in Afghanistan.

**"But the session of the National Security Council Principals Committee,**described by two sources briefed on it as a 's\*\*\* show' that featured what a third source, a senior White House official, confirmed was a heated debate where 'words were exchanged,' proved no more successful than months' worth of previous Afghan policy debates. Trump refused to sign off on the plan they approved, the sources said, instead sending it back to his national security team demanding more work. ...

**"Trump's hesitation is also,** according to multiple current and former senior U.S. officials I've spoken with in recent days, a striking vote of no-confidence in his national

security adviser, H.R. McMaster, who has been trying and failing for months to sell the president on a new plan for Afghanistan. McMaster has made a major policy review of America's long, failed war there his personal mission, according to the sources, and he pushed hard to get a new strategy that would include the relatively modest troop increases and a commitment to at least another four-year timeline approved in advance of Trump's May summit with NATO allies. But instead, the sources said, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson teamed up with Mattis to block McMaster's initial version, which they believed Trump and political advisers wary of the war, notably chief strategist Steve Bannon, would not support without clearer markers of success." ><http://politi.co/2uPVfjF><

-- Glasser also spoke with Laurel Miller, who recently stepped down as acting special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, for the Global POLITICO Podcast. **Transcript** ><http://politi.co/2tDider>< ... **Listen and subscribe** ><http://apple.co/2kAoZfH><

**FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER** was in town on Friday, and he sat down for 45 minutes with Isaac Dove for the next episode of the Off Message podcast, coming Tuesday. "I wish we could do like John Travolta with Saturday Night Fever, where he starts dancing. He's disco dancing and then all of a sudden, within one year, you have a million more discotheques all over the world," he said. "You wish that you could do the same thing with the environmental issues or in the redistricting or good government practice."

**On what he thinks of people** like Joe Scarborough leaving the GOP because of Trump: "There's love it and leave, or love it and change it. And I believe in changing. Because in my heart, I'm a Republican. So all of the original Republican principles, I'm with that." Schwarzenegger wants there to be a third party, but not sure if he'd get involved: "I would have to see who is involved because a lot of times, you see those Independents and those are wacky guys also. So you've got to be careful who you bring to bed with you. ... Jesse Ventura started out great, but then he became a forehead. I don't know. Something happened." And here's what he said when Isaac asked him why he thinks he seems to get under Trump's skin: "I think he maybe sees me on the same level, or he feels threatened by that. I could not even tell you." **Subscribe to get the full interview** ><http://apple.co/2kJqk3D><

**YIKES! -- "Local governments keep using this software -- but it might be a back door for Russia,"** by WaPo's Jack Gillum and Aaron C. Davis: "Local and state



government agencies from Oregon to Connecticut say they are using a Russian brand of security software despite the federal government's instructions to its own agencies not to buy the software over concerns about cyberespionage, records and interviews show. The federal agency in charge of purchasing, the General Services Administration, this month removed Moscow-based Kaspersky Lab from its list of approved vendors. In doing so, the agency's statement suggested a vulnerability exists in Kaspersky that could give the Russian government backdoor access to the systems it protects, though they offered no explanation or evidence of it. Kaspersky has strongly denied coordinating with the Russian government and has offered to cooperate with federal investigators." ><http://wapo.st/2uXR8mo><

## THE JUICE ...

-- **FIRST IN PLAYBOOK:** Rational360's digital team did an analysis of all members of Congress' Twitter accounts and figured out which reporters and media organizations members followed the most. The top 10 reporters: Chad Pergram, Mike Allen, Chuck Todd, Jake Tapper, Ed O'Keefe, Dana Bash, Manu Raju, Bret Baier, Jake Sherman and Chris Cillizza. ><http://bit.ly/2uPk7rJ><

-- **FROM MORNING MONEY: LAUNCHING TODAY** – John Dearie emails: "I left the Financial Services Forum at the end of June to launch a new 501(c)(3) organization called the Center for American Entrepreneurship (CAE), which will launch ... Monday ... CAE's purpose is to work with policymakers in Washington, and the state and local levels across the country, to enhance policy circumstances for new business formation, survival, and growth. ...

"[W]e currently have funding from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Visa, Wells Fargo, UPS, Bank of America, and Goldman Sachs, and are talking with many others."

**PLAYBOOK METRO SECTION -- "Dacha fights for a second beer garden on 14th Street,"** by WaPo's Rachel Chason. ><http://wapo.st/2vR6buw><

## PLAYBOOK READS

### **EZRA COHEN-WATNICK PROFILE -- ROSIE GRAY in The Atlantic, “The Man**

**McMaster Couldn’t Fire:** Thirty-one year old Ezra Cohen-Watnick holds the intelligence portfolio on the National Security Council -- but almost everything about him is a mystery”: “Despite his prominent, and apparently quite secure, position in Trump’s NSC, little is known about Cohen-Watnick, who had spent much of his short career as a low-ranking official at the Defense Intelligence Agency. Information about him in publicly available sources is scarce. Few higher-ups from the DIA remember him. Only one picture of him can be found online, a snapshot unearthed by AI-Monitor’s Laura Rozen. Unlike other White House officials who have become public figures in their own right, Cohen-Watnick never speaks for himself publicly, leaving others to fill the void. ... Some profess not to know him, or ask why anyone would want to write about him. Others simply refuse to discuss him. ‘I won’t talk to any journalist about Ezra,’ said Michael Ledeen, a Flynn confidant who knows Cohen-Watnick well. ‘Is it one of your hit pieces?’ asked Bannon.” <http://theatlantic.com/2017/02/20/ezra-cohen-watnick-profile/311111/> ... **Pic of Ezra** <http://bit.ly/2uP8fGw>

**TWO GOOD NEW YORKER** pieces that just popped -- “**Weathering the Storm:**In a summer of disasters, London’s first Muslim mayor works to preserve Europe’s global city,” by Sam Knight: Sadik “Khan is a student of American politics, and in describing the role of religion in his public identity he often paraphrases John F. Kennedy: he is not a Muslim mayor; he is a mayor who happens to be Muslim. He allays your concerns before they have a chance to form. Khan characterizes himself as a feminist. He is the first mayor to walk in the city’s gay-pride march. But he is also conscious that he has an obligation to talk about and demystify Islam. ... He will quote passages from the Quran and the Hadith, the sayings of the Prophet, when discussing terrorism.” <http://bit.ly/2vQFRRp>

-- “**Guilty Pleasure: How TV created Donald Trump,**” by Emily Nussbaum: “As it happens, most episodes of Trump on ‘The Apprentice’ are curiously hard to find: they’re not available to stream or download. Only first-season DVDs are for sale, legally, online—and only used ones. The show is not at the Paley Center for Media’s research library, either. (M-G-M, which owns the rights, declined to comment.) ... Rewatching ‘The Apprentice’ more than a decade later, it’s easy to see why it struck a chord. Glossy and upbeat, the show, which debuted after 9/11 but before the economic collapse, introduced itself as a stirring advertisement for Wall Street as a meritocracy. Each episode opens with the earworm ‘For the Love of Money,’ by the O’Jays, with its ‘moneymoneymoneymoney” groove: ‘Talk about cash money! / Dollar bills, y’all.”” <http://bit.ly/2uo8mrA>

**KNOWING MARK MEADOWS -- “Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows takes a seat at the top table,”** by the Washington Examiner’s Al Weaver: <http://washex.am/2uPKX3d>

-- **INTERESTING NUGGET:** Kellyanne Conway on the support Meadows and his wife gave Trump after the Access Hollywood tape last October: “We will always remember how tenacious and loyal Mark and Debbie Meadows were, especially after Oct. 7. They’re definitely members of what we call the ‘Oct. 8th coalition.’” <http://washex.am/2uPUIUp>

**BUSINESS BURST -- “Wall Street Outlasts Congress on Banker Pay, But Still Loses,”** by WSJ’s Telis Demos and Dave Michaels: Trump administration regulators have signaled they want to abandon long-simmering plans to further regulate pay on Wall Street. But aspects of the Dodd Frank law passed in 2010 under President Barack Obama along with changes in the economics of the banking industry have already resulted in tighter compensation controls. Portions of the Dodd-Frank mandate—including making pay more sensitive to risk and long-term results—have made it into guidelines adopted by the Federal Reserve and other agencies. Banking groups have said their members follow the guidelines, but Washington and Wall Street have wrangled for years over whether they need to be locked in with formal rules.

“**Last week, regulators** including the [SEC] dropped efforts to craft those tougher provisions from their published agendas. Those proposals included longer deferment periods for bonuses and longer periods of time during which the payouts are subject to potential claw backs. An SEC spokesman declined to comment on the changed agenda. But Republican lawmakers and regulatory officials have long complained that Dodd-Frank included many measures unrelated to the financial crisis that spurred its passage.” <http://on.wsj.com/2unDZ4A>

**OLIVIA NUZZI** with her third cover story for NYMag, “**Donald Trump Is Not Invited to the Wedding:** Joe, Mika, and their star-crossed relationship with the president”: “Because Joe and Mika are perhaps the only masochists alive who operate on this schedule and spend this much time together (a 6-to-9 a.m. show; up as late as 10 p.m., crisscrossing the Northeast corridor for meetings, events, and speeches), it can feel as though they exist in their own private universe. Except they don’t. Between them breathes a sprawling web of three ex-spouses and six children, ranging in age from 9 to 29 (Scarborough quietly divorced his second wife in 2013, while Brzezinski’s marriage ended in 2015).

**“It has historically been a preoccupation** for them, then, to keep the matter of their relationship and its inconvenient origins out of the press, which they achieved with near-total success — something one New York tabloid veteran told me was astonishing and ‘a lesson for everyone’ in how to ‘tame the gossips.’ ‘I think of the gossip world as extremely transactional, and they were very good at dealing with it,’ the veteran told me. ‘They are total operators: They weren’t above trading one item for another. They took their own PR into their own hands.’” <http://nym.ag/2uoHJTE> < ... **The cover** <http://bit.ly/2eH8Gw6> <

**MEDIAWATCH -- “New York Times requests apology from Fox on ISIS story,”** by David Cohen and Hadas Gold: “The New York Times on Sunday took the unusual step of requesting an apology from a competitor, asking ‘Fox & Friends’ to retract a report that the Times was to blame for the 2015 escape of an ISIS leader. Fox subsequently updated the story on its website with the NYT letter. ‘I am writing on behalf of The New York Times to request an on-air apology and tweet from Fox & Friends in regards to a malicious and inaccurate segment ‘NY Times leak allowed ISIS leader to slip away,’ wrote Danielle Rhoades Ha, vice president of communications for the Times.” <http://politi.co/2eGvs7p> <

**-- “How Trump Got It Wrong in Saying The Times ‘Foiled’ Killing of ISIS Leader,”** by NYT’s Michael R. Gordon: <http://nyti.ms/2tT5UWN> <

**TV TONIGHT --** “The Beat with Ari Melber,” premieres tonight at 6 p.m. on MSNBC. Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) will be the show's debut guest.

## **PLAYBOOKERS**

**SPOTTED:** Sean Spicer relaxing yesterday afternoon at the Army Navy Country Club pool ... Sen. Marco Rubio and his family enjoying the activities at the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s “Superhero Family Day” on Saturday (h/t Laura Lott, president and CEO of the American Alliance of Museums) ... Rep. Luke Messer and family yesterday walking into morning service at McLean Presbyterian Church ... Peter Baker and Susan Glasser at a book party in his honor at Harris Miller and Deborah Kahn’s house in northern Virginia, where Peter was born and raised. Former Rep. Tom Davis

(R-Va.) and Rep. Jim Moran (D-Va.) also attended ... Joe Lieberman last night at Penn Station in Baltimore boarding the Acela for D.C.

**WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- Brandy Zadrozny**, senior reporter/researcher at The Daily Beast and **Gregory Zadrozny**, a senior art director at Showtime, welcomed Veda Louise Zadrozny, their third child. Veda joins 6 year old Sky and one year old Wilder. **Pics** ><http://bit.ly/2uOLJxJ>< ... ><http://bit.ly/2eH9LUJ><

**TRANSITIONS --** MGM Resorts International hired **Debra DeShong** as VP of global industry affairs. She most recently served as EVP and managing director of public affairs at Subject Matter. ... **Brink Lindsey**, most recently the VP for research at the Cato Institute, is joining the Niskanen Center as VP and director of the Open Society Project. ...

... **Tom Koonce**, an executive director at JPMorgan Chase, is joining the bipartisan lobbying firm Rich Feuer Anderson in August. The firm has Amazon, BlackRock, PwC and SWIFT as clients. ... **Vinay Vijay Singh** is joining KPMG as director of global infrastructure. He was previously deputy assistant secretary at the International Trade Administration in the Obama Commerce Department.

**WEEKEND WEDDING -- “Jeremy Bearer-Friend, Thomas Gillespie” -- N.Y. Times:** “Mr. Bearer-Friend, 34, was, until recently, the tax counsel in the Washington office of Senator Elizabeth Warren, Democrat of Massachusetts. In August, he is to begin an appointment as an acting assistant professor of taxation at New York University School of Law. He graduated magna cum laude from Brown, and received a Master of Arts in education from the University of California, Berkeley, and a law degree from Stanford. ... Mr. Gillespie, 30, is the assistant director of children’s programming at PBS in Arlington, Va. He graduated from the College of William & Mary. ... The couple met in June 2013 through OkCupid.” **With pic** ><http://nyti.ms/2tAOblD><

-- **POOL REPORT** from Alex Halpern Levy: “At a historic train depot overlooking the Ohio River, Jeremy, Tommy and a revelrous crew of family and friends from all over the country drank Kentucky bourbon, ate split pea samosas, and danced to the beat of the Beastie Boys. Guests included a large contingent of Warren staffers, the NYT’s Dana Goldstein, and a table of former Senate pages (Tommy once worked as a Mitch McConnell page).” **Pic** ><http://bit.ly/2uYL8tE>< ... **Video of Jeremy breaking the**

**glass** ><http://bit.ly/2tClauA><

**BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Joel Benenson**, founder and CEO of Benenson Strategy Group. **How he got his start in politics:** “Left the NY Daily News in 1994 to work as communications director for then-New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, a giant in Democratic politics. I wanted to be the guy in the room, not the guy writing about the room.” Read his Playbook Plus Q&A: ><http://politi.co/2uZ5Rh4><

**BIRTHDAYS:** Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) ... political cartoonist Pat Oliphant ... Marc Racicot, former RNC chair and Montana governor ... AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka ... Ryan Sims ... WSJ’s Kim “Potomac Watch” Strassel ... John Brabender, chief creative at BrabenderCox ... CNBC’s Eamon Javers ... Jennifer Sarver ... Rob Anderson ... Robert Hoopes, president of Vox Global (h/t Josh Alcorn) ... Juergen Baetz, DPA’s Africa bureau chief ... Magee Quick McBride, VP at Jefferies ... Mike Sugerman, journalist at CBS in New York (h/t Jon Haber) ... Kathleen Hennessey, WH editor at the AP ... Rep. Andy Barr (R-Ky.) ... Emily Casarona ... Kerri Briggs of ExxonMobil ... Eli Center ... Chris Bond, communications director for House Majority Whip Steve Scalise ... Michelle Kessel, producer for ABC’s “Nightline” ...

... **Barbara Morgan**, former communications director for Anthony Weiner, who is now living and working in Denver ... Sarah Citrenbaum ... Rep. Charlie Crist (D-Fla.) ... Greg Hittelman, comms director at the Enough Project ... former Rep. Vin Weber (R-Minn.) ... Trey Hollern of Porter Novelli ... Colin Peppard ... Will Holloway ... Carmen MacDougall ... Dan Reilly ... Stephen Dinan ... Brian Mooar ... Politico’s Katherine Ragsdale ... David Fuscus, president/CEO of Xenophon Strategies ... Maryann Sedlack ... Courtney Carlson (h/t Mom, Margaret) ... Dan Slater ... VJ Sahi ... Jessica Doyle ... Olivia Morgan ... Beth Scully (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

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